

Selling grove Pa., October 2, 1869.

Editorial Items.

To Subscribers and Agents in Arrears
ONCE MORE!!

We are now sending out our bills for the last time this year to all those who are in arrears for their subscription to the AMERICAN LUTHERAN. There is a very large amount due this office from subscribers, and we most urgently request a prompt remittance of the amount due from each, as we need the money, and desire that these matters be settled before the close of this year, in order that we may enter upon the next year with clean subscription-books. Our plan, as is well known to our readers, is to forward the paper until a written order to discontinue is received, and all arrears paid up as required by the U. S. Postal Laws. We place full confidence in each and every subscriber by this arrangement, and hope none will keep us waiting for the amount due us.

Now, friends, don't forget or neglect this, to you little matter, but to us important, seeing we have many hundreds of dollars due us, divided up in small amounts all over the country. The same request will apply to those of our agents who are indebted to this office on account of subscriptions collected by them, and for which returns have not yet been made. We prefer remittances to be made in draft, check, registered letter, or Post-Office money-order. The latter we consider an excellent way of sending small amounts, and of every safe. Send to

P. ANSTADT,
Sellinggrove,
Snyder County, Pa.

A Visit to Gettysburg.

We have just returned from a visit to Gettysburg, where the West Pa. Synod has just been in session, and we will therefore, write down a few observations relative to our visit.

We found the Synod assembled in St. James' Lutheran church, a church over which we had in former years been pastor. We found there yet many familiar faces of old friends who greeted us most cordially, but some we learned, had gone beyond the river to the heavenly Canaan, and we shall see their faces no more on earth. We found also the interior of the church completely renovated; it was beautifully frescoed, and the seats changed and newly painted; we should not have recognized it as the dear old St. James' Church, had we not known it to be the same by its location. Rev. Breidenbaugh, the present pastor has been very successful in building up the congregation, and is beloved by his people. We rejoice most heartily in the present prosperity of St. James' congregation.

Of the proceedings of the Synod of West Pa., the reader will find an abstract in another column of this paper. The proceedings were characterized by harmony and good feeling. Only on one point did the discussions wax animated and spicy, namely, on the effort of Rev. Groff to organize a congregation and build a chapel in Mechanicsburg, where there is already a Lutheran congregation under the efficient pastorate of Rev. E. C. Pritchett. The Synod very properly refused to give its sanction to such proceedings.

The readers will find in another column of this paper the report on the state of religion in the Synod of West Pa. This report was drawn up by Rev. Dr. Swartz, and we regard it as a model document of its kind. It is also a refutation of the oft-repeated slander that American Lutherans and revivalists are opposed to, or at least neglect catechization.

We had the pleasure of enjoying the hospitality of our beloved preceptor and friend, Rev. Dr. S. S. Schmucker, and his estimable lady. The Dr. is still in the enjoyment of good health, and has employed his time since his retirement from the seminary, principally in writing books. One of these, "The Church of the Redeemer," has reached the second edition and fifteen hundred copies have been sold. But there could and should have been that many thousand copies of this excellent work sold in the Gen. Synod. We hear the cry constantly reiterated, "Let us have an English Lutheran literature." But when our best writers go to the labor and expense of preparing and publishing books that are just adapted to the wants of our church, they are discouraged by the indifference of ministers and people in regard to their circulation. Here we have a volume illustrating the very questions that are in dispute between the Gen. Synod and the Gen. Council, published just in the very nick of time, while the controversy is going on, and yet only 1500 copies of it are sold. This book should be in every Lutheran family, both clerical and lay, and we advise all our readers who are not already in possession of it, to write to Rev. Dr. Schmucker of Gettysburg, Pa., for a copy.

We called to see Rev. Dr. Jacobs who has now for several years been afflicted with Rheumatic Paralysis. It is truly affecting to see him prostrated and wasted by sickness. He is perfectly helpless and requires attention day and night. Yet he bears his afflictions with patience and resignation, and is glad when his friends and former pupils call to see him. We advise all our ministerial brethren who come to Gettysburg, to call on Prof. Jacobs.

We would also express our obligations to Mr. Henry Fahnestock, our long-tried friend and classmate, for a most delightful ride to the battle monument on the site of the sanguinary battle field which decided the fate of this nation; and to the Catalysine Springs, both of which are giving Gettysburg a world-wide fame. The monument is indeed an imposing structure, erected at a cost of about \$50,000. The body of it is composed of granite, which abounds in the vicinity, but the figures were sculptured in Italy of Italian marble. The top of the shaft is surmounted

by a tall figure representing Liberty, and around the base are grouped four colossal figures, symbolizing War, History, Manufacture and Agriculture.

The hotel at the Springs is a most magnificent building, and was occupied by a large number of guests during the warm weather; they had, however, all gone away at the time of our visit. We drank a glass of the health-giving waters from the famous Spring, but could perceive no difference in taste or appearance from ordinary spring water, and as we were not sick, we neither expected nor experienced any beneficial effects. It is said, however, to have effected some very remarkable cures.

As regards our institutions of learning and religion located at Gettysburg, we remark that the sessions in the Theological Seminary had not yet commenced, but we were told the prospects for a large class of theological students were very encouraging.

The College and Preparatory departments have commenced. Some thirty new students have entered both departments of the institution, since the beginning of the fall session; and a number of others are expected to report themselves soon.

The old college chapel has been neatly and conveniently refitted, and furnished with new pews and a desk; and is now an attractive and comfortable place for the devotional meetings of the students. The room of the old Preparatory Department, at the north end of the Linnean Hall, has been fitted up far a declaiming Hall; and sundry other necessary improvements about the premises have been made.

Prof. Martin, the new Professor of German has entered upon his duties, and has made a most favorable impression upon the Faculty, the students, and the community; and gives promise of efficiency and success in his department.

CONVERSATION IN THE SYNOD

BETWEEN PETER, JAMES AND JOHN.

John—I am sorry to see the editors of the *Luth. and Miss.* becoming so very bitter towards us; especially this week they seem to have dipped their pens in gall. For instance, they print an editorial in which they say the AM. LUTHERAN is "beneath criticism," and "worthy only of contempt," and that "Dr. Conrad does not condescend so much as to notice his American co-editor," and other such expressions, manifesting a similar spirit.

Peter—You must not be alarmed at this bitterness of the symbolists; they will not be able to hurt us, and in one respect I regard it as a favorable sign. It shows that they have been hit, for it is generally the wounded bird that flutters. They are at present very much chagrined by the secession of the German Synods from the General Council and some of our editorials and conversations on those subjects have no doubt annoyed them still more. Also our reply to their article on "Ossified Hearts" has no doubt been very distasteful to them. Altogether they are now in a bad humor, and I always make great allowance for people's expressions when they are angry. In their sober second thoughts they are often very sorry for what they have said in their passion.

James—It seems almost incredible that men who lay claim to so much dignity and importance should forget themselves to such a degree as to utter such reckless remarks about our paper, when they frequently make large extracts from it, and even tried to imitate our conversations in the *Sanctum*, in which, however, they failed most ludicrously. But how is this about Dr. Conrad not condescending to notice our paper?

Peter—It is true, Dr. Conrad ignores the AM. LUTH. but not out of any feelings of contempt or want of respect. It is simply because he has an idea that there ought to be but one English Lutheran paper in the General Synod and of course he thinks the *Observer* should be that paper, and no other one should be tolerated, either in the East or the West. Hence he never notices the AM. LUTH., for fear some of his readers might find out that there is such a paper published and subscribe for it. But this is merely his hallucination. In other respects he is a beloved brother; and we meet on the most friendly terms; indeed he has assured me that he has nothing against me personally.

John—Do you think there are English Lutherans in the General Synod who do not know anything of the existence of the AM. LUTH.?

Peter—Yes, thousands of them. There are tens of thousands of Lutheran families that read no church paper at all, and know very little or nothing of what is going on in our church or the Christian world in general.

James—I do not see how any man can be an intelligent church member without reading a church paper.

Peter—This shows the necessity of more than one church paper, in order, if possible, to reach all these families. The *Observer*, if accounts can be relied on, has been increasing its subscription list ever since the AM. LUTH. has been commenced, and I presume very few of our subscribers would have been obtained for the *Observer*, even if our paper had not been commenced. Hence I say, it is a wrong view which the Dr. has that we should have only one English paper in the General Synod; one cannot supply the wants of the whole church nor accomplish as much good as two, even laying aside the differences of views and tastes that we find everywhere among the people.

Church Consecration.

On the 24th of October next, the new Evangelical Lutheran church of Gettysburg, will be solemnly consecrated to the service of the triune God. Several ministers from a distance are expected to be present, and all neighboring ministers and the public generally, are cordially invited to be present.

D. SELL, Pastor.

Gettysburg, Sept. 27th '69.

For the American Lutheran.

Report,

ON THE STATE OF RELIGION IN THE SYNOD OF WEST PENN'A.

Of all the reports presented in our minutes there is none which is scanned with so much interest by the lovers of Christ and his church as the report on the State of Religion. Indeed this is the sum of all, and all else is with reference to this. It would be but a small consolation to the lovers of Zion to witness the most perfect order in all the external movements of the church if there were no evidences of increased vitality in spiritual religion, but with proofs of this, he would rejoice, even though it were attended with all the commotions and disturbances excited in families and communities by the first preaching of the Gospel.

In presenting such a report there are however grave difficulties. Nothing more can be attempted than a very general and approximately correct exhibition of the state of religion in our churches. The reports of the pastors themselves cannot be very specific, and from the mass of varied material presented by these, we are expected to make a comprehensive digest or summary exhibition of the evidences of piety or the want of it in our midst.

As when the foundations of the second temple were laid, "The people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of weeping of the people," so from the mingled voices coming up to us from the reports of the brethren we at first listen with almost equal perplexity and confusion.

For example, some of our most experienced and devoted pastors complain as follows:—"The idea of vital piety," says one, "a loving, growing and progressive religion is something new and wholly unknown among them, (his people.) Religion in their opinion consists in the simple external use of the means of grace, baptism, catechization, confirmation, the observance of the Lord's Supper, going to church when convenient &c., and has nothing to do with their everyday life."

Another says, "The disorganizing tendencies of the present age have spread their contagion among us, and persecution far opinion's sake is manifesting itself and has really commenced. The long tried and good old way is too hard for a certain class of listeners. They desire new ways and new means by which they easily get along without much mental exertion."

Another speaking of the recent condition of affairs in his congregation, says, "Brotherly love had given place to mutual hatred. It is to be feared that whatever improvement may be visible it is only superficial and that other troubles may at any time break forth afresh."

Another complains that for years there has been no prayer meeting in two of his congregations and that to establish such a novelty would require the wisdom of the serpent and the harmlessness of the dove.

Another complains in strange connection with a report of an extensive revival, of religion in his charge of such a low standard of Christian benevolence that the stewards of the Lord spend much more in useless extravagances and hurtful excesses than they give to the cause of Christ. These are a few sounds of "the noise of weeping" of those who in "troubled times" are seeking to lay the foundation of the Lord's house. But there are many cheering and hopeful words in the reports of the brethren, there is also "the noise of the shout of joy," and if there were much to make the lover of Zion sad there is much more to rejoice his heart. God is in the midst of her and in the past year has increased and blessed her. He has spared the lives and preserved the health of his ministerial servants in our Synod and enabled them to labor in the upbuilding of the church.

The word has been faithfully preached, the sacraments have been stately administered and with evident manifestations of the divine presence and power. Almost all the brethren report seasons of refreshing in their congregations from the presence of the Lord. The churches have enjoyed peace among themselves and been edified and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost have been multiplied. The protracted meetings held during the winter have been signalized by abundant outpourings of the Holy Spirit, believers have been quickened into new and higher life, the backslidden have been reclaimed and hundreds of impenitent souls have been converted to God through the preaching of the Word by the power of the Holy Ghost.

The happy state of things reported by brother Lilly in his congregation has been enjoyed in greater or less measure in a number of our congregations. He says, "Early in December I commenced my catechetical services with a respectable number in attendance. About the middle of February there was apparent an interest among the class which required more directly personal and protracted efforts. Soon a general awakening was the result, and a meeting of some five weeks continuance was attended by universally large congregations and with a deep under current of religious feeling pervading the whole assembly. Young and old and middle aged bowed together in penitential sorrow, and rose together, rejoicing in songs of praise, young men, middle aged and men with silver locks turned to Jesus, set up their family altars, confessed Christ in open prayer, by confirmation and the Lord's Supper and are on their way rejoicing."

A similar season of revival occurred in the Calisla congregation during which nearly 150 souls, ranging through ages between 14 and 70 years, were bowed in penitential sorrow before God in prayer for pardon and salvation and were enabled to believe and testify that Christ hath power on earth to forgive sin. It would hardly lengthen this report to recite all the instances of special outpouring of the Spirit upon our churches.

And whilst protracted meetings have been held and special efforts have been made for the conversion of the impenitent, there has been no lack of diligence on the part of our pastors to keep up the time honored and Heaven favored usage of catechetical instruction in our churches. The young baptized members of our churches have been instructed in the doctrines of the gracious covenant made with them in their infancy and many have approached the altar to ratify and confirm in their own name the vows made for them by their parents at the baptismal altar. Kindred and auxiliary to the work of catechization has been the labor of teachers and parents in the Sunday School. An unusual and general interest is reported in all our churches in the blessed work of Sabbath school instruction. Augmented numbers of teachers and scholars in attendance, greater thoroughness and efficiency of organization, largely increased libraries, improved methods of instruction, enlargement and adaptation of Sunday school apartments, &c., are reported as evidences of the growing interest of the church in this blessed work. Whilst it is impossible that pastors and teachers shall give too much attention to the Sabbath school and catechetical instruction of the young it is to be feared that the numerous, public and moral exercises of the sanctuary will sadly enervate upon if they do not supercede the divinely commanded duty of parental home instruction. It is questionable however, whether pastors and parents can regard without apprehension the constant calls of public duty on the Sabbath and the consequent difficulty of maintaining home and family religion.

We wish that with the many cheering evidences of spiritual activity and prosperity in our midst, we could chronicle a similar improvement in the practical and substantial grace of Christian benevolence. There is not a total want of proof that our churches in the main have made some progress in the attainment of a spirit of liberality in giving to the Lord and yet it is sadly evident that there is an unhappy disproportion between the ability and the willingness of our people to give of their means to the cause of Christ.

There is in the minds of our people no adequate feelings of sympathy with the claims of the church upon their means for the support of its many evangelical but languishing enterprises, they do not yet understand that not only they themselves, but that all they have belongs to the Lord and that they are not owners but simply stewards of the manifold blessings of his providence and ought therefore according to their ability to give of their means, labors and influence when called upon by his servants to support his cause.

In conclusion, we rejoice and give thanks to God that amid all our causes for sorrow and humiliation we have great reason to take courage and return to our fields of labor with the satisfaction that as our past labor has not been in vain in the Lord so will our future efforts not be without his favor and blessing.

JOEL SWARTZ,
SAM'L YINGLING,
E. DUTT.For the American Lutheran.
NORTHERN CONFERENCE.

SYNOD OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

This Conference convened in the Lutheran Church of Bealsburg on Thursday evening, September 16th, '69. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. R. H. Fletcher. The following ministers and delegates were present:

Clerical—Revs. Sell, Kloss, Heisler, Hackenberger, Williams, Fletcher, Salm, D. D., Ansapach, Lazarus, and Gotwald.

Delegates—George Musser, John Musser, George Dale, John Heckman, and John Hess.

A number of the brethren were absent. We would request our absent brethren to read Sec. 1, Art. 4, of our Constitution. "A sacred duty" to attend the sessions of Conference can only be discharged by regularly attending.

An important change was made in the time of meeting. Hereafter we convene on "Tuesday evening, and adjourn at such a time previous to Sabbath, as Conference shall have disposed of all its business." Two ministers with alternates, are appointed to remain with pastor loci, over Sabbath.

MISSIONARY INSTITUTE.

The following action was held relative to the Institute:

Inasmuch as there is yet due Dr. Ziegler \$800, on his salary, of which he is in great need; and inasmuch as we regard the Missionary Institute as a Church institution, and therefore do not regard this Conference alone responsible. Therefore

Resolved, That the members of this Conference, as a portion of the church, take up collections in their respective charges, before our next conference meeting, towards liquidating this claim.

Resolved, That we suggest to the other portions of our church to go and do likewise.

Resolved, That we suggest to the Alumni of the Missionary Institute the propriety of raising at least \$30 in each of their charges, for this object.

Resolved, That the Directors, who are members of this Conference, be instructed to urge the collections of unpaid subscriptions and interest due, in the Board of Directors, at their next meeting at Selinsgrove.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to write to the President of the Juniata Conference and request him to have that Conference to co-operate with us in this matter.

KANSAS CITY.

The following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That Conference recommend Bro. Wm. H. Gotwald to the Executive Committee of the Home Missionary Society of the General Synod as a missionary for Kansas City.

BEAVERTOWN CHARGE.

Revs. Ziegler, Ansapach, Austadt, Kloss, and Lazarus were appointed a committee to supply this charge with preaching until the next meeting of Conference, or until said charge secures a regular pastor.

The reports on the state of Religion were very encouraging. This Conference is composed of active workers for the glory of God, and the salvation of immortal souls. God blesses their working.

The Secretary was appointed to prepare an essay on Catechization, to be read at the next meeting.

Conference adjourned to meet at Salona, Clinton Co., Pa., on the 14th of December, 1869.

WM. H. GOTWALD, Sec.

For the American Lutheran.

West Penn'a Synod.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of West Penn'a has just held its forty-fifth convention in St. James church, Gettysburg, from the 22—27th inst. The members of Synod being entertained by the congregations of St. James and Christ's Lutheran churches.

On Wednesday evening the 22d, the opening sermon was preached by the President, Rev. A. W. Lilly from Matt. VI. 10.—"Thy kingdom come." Of the several sessions of the Synod we do not pretend to give an account of all that transpired, but will notice matters of special interest. Officers:—The old officers were all re-elected.

Rev. A. W. Lilly, President,
Rev. E. Breidenbaugh, Secretary.
Rev. W. M. Baum, D. D. Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

This Synod numbers fifty clerical members, of whom all but 2 were present. Of lay delegates there was a full attendance. Of clerical visitors there was a large number. One remarkable feature of the history of this body during the past synodical year is the many changes which have taken place in its membership, eleven ministers having been dismissed by certificates to other Synods, and eleven having been received, leaving but one vacant charge, that of Greencastle.

HOME MISSIONS.

On the suggestion of the Board of this Synod, on Home Missions, it was resolved that the recommendation to transfer our entire missionary operations to the Missionary Board of the General Synod be adopted. A committee was appointed by this Synod to supervise its Home Missionary interests, calling the attention of the General Synod Board to the wants in the bounds of the West Penn'a Synod. After very interesting addresses, on Thursday evening, by Rev. Dr. Swartz, and Rev. Officer, seven persons were made life members of this Society by contributions of \$25 each, which, with basket collection, amounted to \$185.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

Rev. M. Officer, Superintendent of the Home Mission Board, informed the Synod of the successful establishment of the Lutheran church at Topeka to which the Synod had contributed, for the erection of a church \$2,000. It was

Resolved: That this Synod obligate itself to raise during the synodical year \$1,500 for church extension in the West.

BENEFICIARY EDUCATION.

During the past collegiate year this Synod has had from 17 to 14 young men on its funds, amounting to an expenditure of \$2910. Two of these have completed their course of studies, and have already entered on the active duties of the ministry. Several applications have been made for aid; so that this year the Synod will begin with about fourteen young men depending on it for assistance. Certain regulations were adopted for guidance in the reception of those applying for beneficiary aid, making it necessary for the applicant to answer satisfactorily certain questions with reference to his religious, pecuniary and physical condition. Also that no student shall be continued whose scholarship or conduct does not satisfy the educational committee of Synod.

On Friday evening the educational address by Rev. Koller was delivered. This address was full of interest, showing conclusively the urgent demand for an educated ministry from the religious, social, and literary interests of our times. By the making of 17 life members of the Educational Society, there was contributed \$432.

GERMAN PAPER.

The *Lutherische Kirchenfreund* was earnestly recommended by Synod to all its German membership, as eminently worthy of their support, and its extensive circulation was urged on the Pastors.

PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

Pastors and people are earnestly recommended to remember favorably this institution in their benevolent contributions, and pastors are requested to call the special attention of congregations to it.

ORPHAN'S HOME.

The interests of our Orphan's Home at Loysville were diligently considered, and the Trustees on the part of this Synod required hereafter, at each meeting of Synod to report in addition to the report of the Superintendent of the Home.

INTEMPERANCE.

The prevalence of this vice was deplored, and it was resolved that the use or sale of intoxicating drinks, except for medicinal or mechanical purposes demands church discipline; also that at least once each synodical year the pastors of the various congregations preach on this subject, using every possible influence for furthering the cause of Temperance.

DELEGATES TO GEN. SYNOD.

The former action of Synod, prohibiting the successive re-election of delegates to the Gen. Synod, was rescinded.

NEW CHARGE.

A new charge at Mt. Holly, Cumberland Co., and adjacent points, under the pastoral care of Rev. C. Lepley, was established and received into this Synod.

VISIT TO LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

On Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock, the Synod in a body, at the invitation of their respective faculties, visited College, Stevens' Hall, and the Theological Seminary.

On Monday evening, at half past ten, the Synod adjourned to meet in Mechanicsburg, on the third Wednesday of September, 1870. May the blessings of God rest on the proceedings of this convention. E. S. B.

SHOE TIPS.—The American Shoe Tip Com-

pany have introduced, this season, a new white metal tip, which by wear has the appearance of silver, and is decidedly ornamental. A metal tip adapted to first-class shoes has long been needed. This new tip meets this demand, and must come into use as general use on the finer grades of children's shoes as the 30 per tips have on the common grades. —Boston Journal.

An Editor on his Travels.

Rev. Aldrich, Editor of the *Evangelical Lutheran*, published at Charlotte, N. C. has been travelling some this summer, and came up North as far as New York City. His description of the ritualism in St. Alban's Episcopal Church will doubtless interest our readers. Our Lutheran ritualists have not yet gone as far as those of St. Albans, although they are making considerable progress in that direction.

"Our readers have heard a great deal about St. Albans, an Episcopal Church of the ritualistic order. A desire to witness the services, which we did not care to restrain, particularly as there was no service in any of our own churches, took us on Sunday to that Church. We were prepared to see an extraordinary amount of ceremony, but the reality far exceeded our anticipations. It was the 11 o'clock service we attended, which began with the Litany. When we entered the church, service had already commenced. To the rear of the church we saw a high altar, and on it a large gilt cross, and on either side two lighted candles; before this altar, and with his back to the congregation, the officiating minister stood, having on the surplice or white gown, and over it a green cape lined with yellow satin, which did not close in the back, but left an open space of about two inches, which exposed the white surplice and contrasted with the green cape, across which was shown a broad white piece representing a cross. On either side of the chancel, a number of boys, also in surplices, and another little fellow inside of the chancel, whose duty it seemed to wait upon the officiating minister. The entire service was neither read nor sung, but conducted in a most monotonous singing tone of voice, which defied even the most acute ear to detect whether the words spoken were English, Greek or Hebrew. There were frequent crossings, bowings, and various other genuflections, the congregation all the while kneeling and responding in the same disagreeable tone of voice. The little fellow whose place was within the chancel was frequently in motion, at one time handing the collection plates to the Deacons, and then receiving and presenting them to the minister, then retreating backwards for a few spaces (for his face must always be towards the cross), he returned with a silver bowl which contained, we suppose, the "water of purification," for the minister washed in it his hands after touching the "filthy lucre," and before he continued the service. Then the little fellow was to be seen transferring the prayer-book from one side of the altar to the other, and in a little while returning it to its former place, so through almost the entire service he was in motion. After prayer the minister went into a little box (it can hardly be termed a pulpit), which stood on one side of the altar, and crossing himself began a lecture in the same sing-song tone of voice, which lasted about ten minutes, when returning again to the altar, and bowing himself, he commenced the communion service. We noticed that the minister in approaching the communicants, held his arms in a position that when viewed in connection with his body, there was to be discovered a representation of the cross, and so, too, in the administration of the elements it was invariably in the form of the cross. Service being ended, and the benediction pronounced, the congregation remained kneeling, while the little fellow in the chancel gathered a small gilt cross, and went before the minister who was followed by other little boys into the vestry room; all the while chanting as they went, and a little while after they entered the room. The congregation did not move from their knees, until all this chanting was over, when they began to disperse.—We confess that we were by no means edified by these services, which seemed an attempt at approximation to the ritualism of the Romish Church, but with none of its impressiveness."

50th Anniversary.

The fiftieth anniversary of the First Lutheran Sunday-school of Harrisburg, Pa., will be held in the church, Sunday, October 17 1869.

As it is desired to mark this period in the history of the school with more than usual interest, a cordial invitation is extended to all persons who may have ever been in any way connected with the school, as well as the friends of Sunday-schools generally to meet with us upon that occasion. Old pastors, superintendents, teachers, and scholars, you are particularly invited to join in our semi-centenary gathering. As it is the intention to publish an historical sketch of the school for the past fifty years, old pastors, superintendents, teachers or others who may be in possession of any interesting incidents or valuable facts, are kindly requested to send them to either of the undersigned, or bring them with them at the time mentioned above.

Committee. { Fred'k C. Fink,
Chas. A. Kunkel,
Mrs. E. C. Lochman.

Rev. P. STANS HOOPER, formerly of New Philadelphia, Ohio, having accepted a call to the English Lutheran church at Findley, O. correspondents will please notice the change.

Rev. J. R. Sikes has accepted a unanimous call from the Lutheran church at Stewartsville, N. J., and expects to remove thither about the first of November.

The mother church at Hagerstown has elected by a unanimous vote, the Rev. S. W. Owen of Woodsboro, Md. their pastor.

PITTSBURG SYNOD.

The Pittsburg Synod will meet on the 14th of October, at 9 o'clock, A. M., at Apollo, Pa. Apollo is reached by the West Pennsylvania Railroad, 24 miles West from Blairsville, and 10 miles East from the junction of the A. V. Railroad. Members and visitors will be waited on at the depot on the arrival of the trains, Wednesday, P. M., about 3 and 5 o'clock, and Thursday morning about 8 o'clock.

G. F. EHRENFELD, Secretary.
Sept. 16, 1869.

Sunday-School.

All communications intended for this Department should be addressed to
JOHN J. REBMAN, Editor of S. S. Column,
Harrisburg, Pa.

Blackboard Lesson.

MATTHEW VI. 24.

Ye cannot have TWO Masters.

Write upon the board only the initial letters, and fill up the words as the lesson is unfolded.

C—omfort,	S—orrow,
H—appiness,	A—gony,
R—eward,	T—error,
T—ribulation,	A—bandonment,
S—afety,	N—o hope.
T—riumph,	

Who is MY Master?

The above is the appearance of the board after drawing from the children the lesson, in something after the following manner:

We cannot look in two opposite directions at the same time—we cannot be in two places at the same moment. Yet this is just as possible as it is for us to have Jesus in our hearts and at the same time have our hearts full of sinful thoughts, and our lives full of sinful ways. To each one of you, dear children, there comes two invitations to service. One of them is from the Evil One, promising you pleasure and happiness here; and one from the blessed Jesus, promising you everlasting happiness and joy. When the prophet Elijah had prepared the altar for the trial with the priests of Baal, he said to the people of Israel, who crowded the hill-top watching eagerly the result, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve. If the Lord be God, serve ye Him." So the Spirit is saying to each one of you to-day, "Choose ye, this day." Let us look at the Two Masters who knock at the door of our hearts to-day.

The service of Christ gives *Comfort*. The heart feels light and

Children's Department.

My Mother's Grave.

I love to stay where my mother sleeps,
And gaze on each star as it twinkles peeps,
Through the bending willow which lonely weeps

O'er my mother's grave.

I love to kneel on the green turf there,
And gaze on the scenes of my daily care,
And breathe to my Saviour my evening prayer

O'er my mother's grave.

I will remember how oft she led,
And knelt me by her with God she plead,
That I might be his when the turf was spread

O'er my mother's grave.

I love to think how 'neath the ground
She slumbers in death as a captive bound,
But she'll slumber no more, when the trump shall sound

O'er my mother's grave.

—Apples of Gold.

A Child's Apology.

Dotty had accused a schoolmate of stealing a lost pencil, but her mother chanced to find it and placed it by night at Dotty's side.

Dotty was greatly surprised in the morning to see the pencil lying on her pillow.

"But perhaps it is not yours," said her mother. "It may belong to Tate Penny, or some other little girl."

"O, mamma! here's a place where I scratched with a pin. What made you think I didn't know my own pencil?"

"Why, you said Lina had taken that."

"But she didn't, mamma," said Dotty, casting down her eyes.

"Excuse me, dear, but you said you just knew she did."

"I meant—just thought."

"Ah, indeed! You only thought?"

"Yes'm."

"And just because you thought, although you couldn't know, you called Lina an awful, wicked, horrid girl."

"I truly s'posed she was, mamma," said Dotty, with her finger in her mouth.

"Your truly s'poses are very cruel things, Dotty. What is going to be done with that little fiery tongue of yours?"

Dotty touched the tip of it, and felt very much as if she would like to pull it out by the roots.

"I don't know, mamma."

"Of course you will ask Lina's pardon for accusing her falsely?"

"Yes'm."

"And after this I hope my little girl will beware of hasty judgments."

"Yes'm."

Dotty was very eager to atone for her fault. The moment she saw Lina, she held up the pencil, exclaiming: "You didn't take it, Lina! Roseburg; now I know you didn't, for here it is—came out of my dress—and I'm sorry I said so."

"There, there, I knew you'd find it," said Lina, highly delighted.

"I shall be certain sure next time, before I tell a person they did steal," added Dotty, penitently. "Will you forgive me?"

"Oh! yes, I forgive you," replied Lina, with a toss of her pretty head; "only you'd better not say so again. What'd you think if I should 'cuse you of stealing?"

"Oh! you wouldn't," said Dotty, quickly. "You'd know better than to suppose I'd steal."

"Why, Dotty Dimple! that's the same as to say I would."

"Oh! no; Lina, I don't think that. I wouldn't be so wicked! But I don't like to have you sit next to my pocket, though—Won't you please change places?"—Dotty Dimps at School.

Helping Mother.

"How I love to help mother!" said little Sophie Foster, as, with a sigh of satisfaction, she rose from rocking the cradle. Baby was fast asleep; the gray cat lay winking and blinking and blinking before the fire; the sunshine poured in bright and golden, and played with the leaves of the ivy that had been trained over the window. Sophie took a story book, and sat down to read.

Presently mother came in. She was a sweet-looking lady with soft brown eyes and merry smile; and she came right up to Sophie and kissed her before she knew it. "So baby is asleep. You have been a great comfort to me, dear. My headache is all gone; and now you may put on your red riding-hood and boots and water-proof cloak, and go out to play."

Sophie's face was very bright as she skipped over the side-walk that afternoon. She had denied herself a visit to a little cousin that she might help mother; and she had a reward. An approving conscience is a better thing to have than great possessions. Do you love to help your mother, little reader? She has done a great deal for you. She has lain awake nights, and worked and planned for days, all for you. Try if you cannot help her ever so much this week.

Who is Nobody?—"Who is ready to go to bed now?" asked a mother of her four little ones, who were busy at play, when the clock struck their usual hour for retiring.

"Nobody," answered three-year old Charles.

"Who is nobody?" quietly asked his Aunt Lucy.

"Aunt Lucy!" he instantly replied.

The Mothers' Magazine tells of a little girl who, upon being told at Sunday school that Heaven was all Sunday, went thoughtfully home and asked: "Mamma, when I go to Heaven, do you not think that if I am very good, God will sometimes let me go out of Heaven for a little, on Saturday afternoons, to play?"

Agricultural.

Precious Dirt.

Paris is showing the other great cities of the world how to get rid of their filth and sewage in a paying way. It has heretofore, says a correspondent of the N. Y. Times, seventy millions of francs to keep this beautiful city clean, but now the sewerage has been humanized and it brings exactly 70 millions of francs for agricultural purposes, so that the Parisians pay nothing for cleanliness, and the crops which the sewerage as manure helps to raise remain as a clear profit. This successful experiment has demonstrated that all the filth which we thus waste with such costly machinery is worth two cents per cubic yard. Treat it with the sulphate of alumina, and you obtain a precipitate worth \$5 the square yard. The water which remains is utterly devoid of great value. What Paris has done New York can and ought speedily to do for the cleanliness of her streets and health of her inhabitants.

The Crops.

The reports which come from different parts of the country, concerning the weather and the crops, are somewhat conflicting. Upon the whole, the farmers have rather a wet and backward season, except in Virginia where it has been dry, and yet pretty good crops leaving out the corn crop, which is universally admitted to be very much behind time, and to promise only half an average yield. Still the hot August weather may bring this crop nearer to the usual amount. The season has been a fine one for potatoes, which are now so plenty and cheap that many large consumers are laying in their winter stock at present prices. Fruit, too, has done well. The crop of peaches is very large, though the quality is not so good in the market supplies as it was last year. Apples are variable some sections report a slim crop, others a plentiful harvest. Other fruits promise well.

Early Rose Potatoes.

This new variety of early potatoes is the best which has appeared for a long time. The potato is long and smooth, the eyes not deep but frequent, and the color of the skin is very thin, and the flesh is fine and of excellent flavor. The yield is also very large. A market gardener near Boston paid thirty dollars last spring for a barrel of Early Rose Potatoes, and from the produce he has already sold one hundred and twenty bushels at from two dollars to two dollars and fifty cents a bushel, and has still a large quantity on hand. A German gardener near this city gives a similar account of his experience. Mr. Vincent of Montgomery county, Ohio, planted three Early Rose Potatoes April 1st, these divided so as to make 120 hills, planted in drills 12 inches apart, the whole occupying a space 14 by 20 feet in extent. He dug from the ground, July 24, just six bushels of potatoes of excellent quality. This is, however, only an early potato, like the June, Dyckmans, and others, and has not proved thus far a good potato to keep in quantities. Further trial and variation of soils may modify this peculiarity.

How to Pack Butter.

The method of packing butter in casks on vogue on the Pacific coast, as will be seen from the following description, is very unlike our own. They never use jars or kegs, but pack it in muslin sacks, made in such a form that the package when complete, is a cylinder three or four inches in diameter, and from half a foot to a foot in length. These sacks are made of fine bleached muslin, and the butter goes into them as soon as worked over. The packages are then put into large casks containing strong brine with a slight mixture of saltpetre, and by means of weights kept always below the surface. The cloth integument always protects the butter from any impurities that chance to come in contact with the package, and being always buried in brine, that protects it from the action of the air; and it has been ascertained by trial that butter put up in this way will keep sweet a great length of time. These butter sacks are ranged upon the counters of the dealers as readily as bars of soap, and when any portion of one is wanted, the end of the sack is stripped down and the necessary quantity detached, when the sack is replaced, leaving the remaining portion as secure as before any part was removed. This plan might not be feasible in our climate without the aid of ice in summer, but the immersion in brine is, and is worthy of consideration on the part of dairymen and butter dealers.—*Union Herald.*

Dark Stables.

Diseases of the eye in horses may in many cases be traced to the wretched custom of confining animals in dark stables. Any one who has been for some time in a dark room, knows what the effect is of coming suddenly out into the bright sunlight. The horse is no less sensitive. Bring him suddenly out, and you notice that he stumbles against almost everything that is in his way, and steps with the utmost uncertainty. This blundering is not the fault of the poor beast, but of his owner. The eye must gradually become accustomed to the change. The effect of the common mode of treatment cannot fail eventually to be disastrous to the eyesight. The detention in dark stables may have a deleterious influence upon the optic nerve, by weakening it. The retina feels it also. Objects are reflected upon a dull surface and they are not clearly discerned. The master wonders what is the matter. His horse used to be sure foot, but now he stumbles entirely too frequently for his credit in the market. He used to be very gentle and could be warranted as altogether safe, but now he shies so abominably that several times he has nearly upset the carriage, and the ladies of the house are afraid of him. He is losing character and rapidly getting a bad name, when the poor brute is as deserving of confidence as ever. The animal would in fact be safer with absolute blindness than with imperfect vision, for it is constantly alarmed by objects which are seen indistinctly, whereas in the former case it trusts entirely to the bridle. Farmers would do well to make note and let their horses have light.

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