Reformed Church Gleanings

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of the New Holland Charge, New Holland, Lancaster County, Pa.

Vol. I.

NEW HOLLAND, PA., NOVEMBER, 1907.

No. 2.

THE NEGLECTED BIBLE.

I am of the opinion that the Bible contains more true sublimity, more exquisite beauty, more pure morality, more important history, and purer strains of poetry and eloquence than can be collected from all other books in whatscever age or language.

-Sir William Jones.

In the Bible there is more that finds me than I have experienced in all other books put together; the words of the Bible find me at greater depths of my being; and whatever finds me brings with it an irresistible evidence of its having proceeded from the Holy Spirit. -Coleridge.

In no age have there been so many copies of the Bible printed in so many languages and so widely distributed as now. And yet it seems to be a fact that at no time since it has been placed within the reach of men, and especially since the invention of the printing press, has the priceless value of the Bible been less appreciated and its presence and claims more ignored than in the present generation. How can we account for this fact? Some persons think that the very fact that it is so generally distributed and that a copy of it can be had at so little cost, and in many cases merely for the asking, has a tendency to beget in the possessor a low estimate of its value, if not a neglect of its use altogether. But our one-cent daily papers are cheap, too, yet that does not keep the majority of the people from reading them diligently. Others think that the strenuous life of our day deprives the masses of the leisure required for the reading of the Bible. But the fact is that the majority of people have more leisure now than their forefathers had in past generations, and the lamentable truth is that they largely use that leisure, even on the Lord's day, either in reading the cheap and trashy Sunday newspaper or in "being on pleasure bent," in ways which neither rest the body nor nourish the

things of the Kingdom of Heaven with which the Bible has to do. It is forever true that "where your treasure is there will your heart be also." When a person wishes to do a possible thing it is easy to find ways and means to do it; if he does not wish to do it, it is easy to find an excuse for not doing it.

In the early part of the last century an Irish youth, apprenticed to a linen weaver, found a New Testament in his master's house, a rare occurrence in a Roman Catholic community. He began to read it and became so interested that at the end of his apprenticeship he begged permission to take it with him. The master consented on the condition that he would work for him six months as the price of it. After discovering that he could not buy a Testament in the largest town in the neighborhood he returned to buy it at the master's price, for he could not do without it. And it is true today that in countries newly reached by the Gospel the Bible is appreciated as it is not in the lands of its professed friends and defenders.

The rich man and his brothers had Moses and the prophets. They neglected them for the sumptuous things of the world. And that neglect was costly beyond estimate. We more than Moses and the prophets, for a greater than they speaks to us in The Book. Let us beware lest by neglecting the Bible we also neglect Him and His salvation of whom it testifies, and thus, making shipwreck of our most precious possessions on our voyage through life, we shall fail to reach the haven of eternal peace and

Carpet Committee.

At a meeting of the Building Committee some time ago the following persons were appointed to collect money for the carpet for the new church: Mrs. Susan L. Hoober and of looking at them. The mountains of Mrs. M. E. Flickinger, managers; Misses Clara G. Eckert, Elmira A. No, the real cause of the neglect of Eckert, Anna Mary Diller, Edna I. the Bible lies in the fact that love Bair, Bertha L. Hammond, Elizabeth for the material things of the world M. Sheaffer, Jemima C. Fenninger, is Paradise.—Augustus Hare.

is displacing the love for the spiritual Stella Hoar, Cath. Elizabeth Moore, Susan E. Blair, Elsie I. Diller, Ruth A. Sharpe and Annie G. B. Bowers. The young ladies appointed are to keep careful accounts of the names and amounts of the contributors and contributions and hand them over to the managers at the close of their labors. . The Gleanings wishes them all possible success in their work, and hopes that its sum total may be so large that a considerable balance may be available for some other articles needed for our new church.

Our Advertisers.

The persons and firms whose advertisements appear in the Gleanings are worthy of patronage by its read-They have helped to make its publication possible. A friend in Maryland, to whom a copy paper was sent, writes: "I truthfully say that the first issue of your paper was read by me entirely, advertisements and all, before I looked at the morning daily papers."

Pews for Sale.

The treasurer of Zeltenreich, Mr. John Flickinger, has been instructed to sell the pews of the old church. They will not only be reminders of the past to those who buy them, but will make good seats for porches, lawns, etc. The stoves and some other things not needed in the new church are also for sale. Prospective buyers will please call on Mr. Flickinger at his mill.

Baptism.

At the home of Elias Groff, Esq., New Holland, September 29, the pastor baptized John Harold, the second son of George B. and Christie A. Gish, Strasburg. "The promise is unto you and to your children."—Acts ii, 39.

Things change less than our way our childhood are hills in our old age.

To Adam, Paradise was home: to the good among his descendants, home

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Rev. John G. Noss, Editor. Wm. M. Stauffer, Publisher.

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NOVEMBER, 1907.

THE GLEANINGS.

The first number of the Reformed Church Gleanings was favorably received by the members and friends into whose hands it was placed, and some of them were pleased to give expression of their appreciation of this new enterprise in commendatory terms. All this is very well, and is encouraging to the editor and publisher. But what is needed in addition is that such appreciation may be manifested by tangible subscriptions. Quite a number have already done so, but the list is not as large as it ought to be to insure the continuance of its publication. The editor, of course, does not look for any pecuniary advantage, and the publisher only exnects to be reimbursed for the necessary expenses; but neither of them can be expected to meet any deficit that might occur if there is not a generous list of subscribers. Please send or hand your subscriptions (not forgetting the 25 cents) to the publisher as soon as possible, if you have not already done so, and thus help to insure the success of the Reformed Church Gleanings.

CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

Zeltenreich.

The last service in the temporary shed on October 13 was quite well attended, considering the weather. By the kind invitation of the consistory and trustees of St. Stephen's church, New Holland, which invitation was accepted by the consistory of Zeltenreich, the services, for the present, of this congregation will be held jointly with that congregation. It is to be hoped that the members of Zeltenreich will make good use of this opportunity to worship in a comfortable place during the winter, and that the members of both congregations will improve the occasion thus offered to become more intimately acquainted with each other, and to enhance the cordial relation already existing between them. The shedding for teams years held a union service on Thankson the hitching grounds of the New Holland church is limited, but the sheds of Eli Hess and H. E. Rutter & and the sermon will be preached by Brother, not far away, have been kind- Rev. Christopher Noss, D. D., of the institutions no harm.

which will accommodate quite a number of teams, will be especially appreciated. owners for the privilege so readily granted.

Since the last issue of this paper 25,000 more bricks were hauled from the kiln at Vogansville, there being not enough to complete the walls as estimated by the architect at the beginning of the work. A carload of slate also arrived at the New Holland station October 25, which were hauled to the church site on the following Monday and Tuesday. This, no doubt, finishes most of the hauling, except that later on another carload of sand may be needed for the plasterers.

The treasurer, Mr. John Flickinger, has been called upon to pay some rather large bills lately, but he reports that with the constant income from subscriptions, both old and new, there is still a comfortable balance in his hands. This is as it ought to be. Let us keep up this condition of things. What a glorious thing it would be. and what a credit to the congregation. if this state of our financial affairs continued to the completion of the church! It can be done if every one does his duty. And no one can afford not to give according to his abilitymuch less not to give at all.

St. Stephen.

Rev. and Mrs. George P. Stem, Siegfried, Pa., were guests at the parsonage on Sunday, October 27. Mr. Stem formerly served the congregation at Littlestown, Pa., and was thus a near neighbor of the pastor, when at Silver Run, Md. He was a delegate to the Synod at Lancaster, and preached at the morning service in St. Stephen, giving us a good, practical sermon. The pastor, though not a delegate, attended the sessions of the Synod almost daily. It is always profitable to attend such meetings. This Synod, known as the Eastern Synod, is the largest numerically in the Reformed Church, and covers the territory in that part of Pennsylvania lying east of the Susquehanna, but not including the German congregations within this territory. The Germans have a Synod of their own.

The St. Stephen and Trinity Lutheran congregations have for many giving Day. The service this year will be held in Trinity Lutheran church,

ly offered by the owners for the use Theological Seminary, Lancaster. The of all who wish to attend the services. offerings, as usual, will be given to the In inclement weather this shedding, General Hospital, Lancaster. The attendance at these services has not been large in the past nor the offer-The Gleanings thanks the ings liberal. There is room for better things in both respects. The opinion is sometimes expressed that this service should be held in the evening rather than in the morning, so as not to interfere with the preparations for the noonday feasting. It is usually not exactly put in that form, but that seems to be the fact in the case. Whether the spiritual should yield to the carnal or the reverse can hardly be a serious question for debate in a Christian community.

The union communion in St. Stephen at 10:30 A. M. Sunday, November 10, it is hoped, will be well attended by the members of both St. Stephen and Zeltenreich congregations. At the mid-summer communion quite a number of both congregations were absent. This is sometimes unavoidable. Would that every one would say: "I must by all means keep this feast."—Acts xviii,

The mid-week service has been attended very well so far. The male members, however, constitute a rather conspicuous minority of those usually in attendance.

St. Paul.

This congregation will have its own communion at 10 A. M. Sunday, November 17. This does not imply that the members are excluded from taking part in the union communion on the preceding Sunday in New Holland. But having a church of its own (not homeless for the present as in the case of the Zeltenreich members) in which to hold this and other services, and there being a small class to confirm, and an election of officers for the coming year, it is deemed better to have a separate communion at this time.

Elder Ezra H. Burkholder and the pastor attended the reception and banquet given by the faculties of the Seminary, College and Academy at Lancaster on Friday afternoon, October 25, to the members of the Eastern Synod and invited guests. This was altogether one of the most enjoyable occasions ever experienced at our institutions of learning in Lancaster. The reception was held in the hall of the Goethean Literary Society, and the banquet in the basement of logical seminary. The speeches after the banquet were thoroughly enjoyed by those present. It would be a benefit to every member of the Reformed Church to visit our far-famed institutions on "The Hill," and would do the

DIRECTORY.

PASTOR.

Rev. John G. Noss, New Holland.

ZELTENREICH. Elders.

Jeremiah Seldomridge, Kinzer R. F. D. George W. Bair, New Holland. Cyrus Shaeffer, Bareville.

Descons

Harry Diller, New Holland R. F. D. James W. Brubaker, New Holland R. F. D.

Louis C. Leberman, New Holland R F D.

John Flickinger, New Holland R. F. D. John S. Livers, Gordonville R. F. D. Frank W. Miller, Gordonville R F. D.

ST. STEPHEN, NEW HOLLAND

Elders.

Elias Groff, New Holland. Edwin C. Mentzer, New Holland R. F D.

David F. Besore, New Holland. Henry F. Besore, New Holland.

Deacons.

Frank Raezer, New Holland. B. F. Alderfer, New Holland. Jonathan H. Weaver, New Holland. William M. Stauffer, New Holland.

Trustees.

Elias Groff, New Holland. David F. Besore, New Holland. Michael R. Good, New Holland.

Sunday School.

Elias Groff, Superintendent. Clifford Townsley, Secretary, Jason D. Bair, Treasurer. George Keyser, Librarian.

ST. PAUL, VOGANVILLE. Elders.

Ezra H. Burkholder, Farmersville. A. V. Walter, M. D., Brownstown.

Deacons.

Isaac P. Mull, Voganville, Andrew F. Shrom, Voganville. Charles E. Seldomridge, Voganville.

The footprints of a man in the sand prove the presence of a human being to that same atheist who denies the existence of a God of whose hand the whole universe bears the marks.

The hate we bear our enemies injures their happiness less than ours; a large part of the happiness we give to others we keep for ourselves.

Some very excellent people tell you they dare not hope. To me it seems much more impious to dare to despair.

—Sydney Smith.

We give altogether too little importance to what we say of others, and too much to what they say of us.

To err is human; but the pain felt for the crime that has been committed separates the good from the bad.

CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for November are as follows:

ST. STEPHEN—At 10:30 a.m., 3rd; Preparatory service at 2 p. m, Saturday, 9th; Holy Communion at 10:30 a. m., 10th; at 7 p. m., 17th. and at 10:30 a. m. 24th.

Sunday School at 9:15 a. m. Mid-week service at 7:30 p. m., each Wednesday.

ST. PAUL (Voganville)—At 2 p. m., 3rd; Preparatory service and Confirmation at 2 p. m., 15th; Holy Communion at 10 a. m, 17th.

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