

The Sabbath Recorder.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1865. Geo. B. Utter, Editor.

ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE SABBATH.

PART II.—THE SABBATH. Chapter II.

To arrive at an intelligent and just view of the times and ideas of the Reformation, we need to remember, that this, like all great movements in Church or State, was not born in a moment. The elements had been at work for years. The better soul of the people had been gathering its forces for the assault, and was only waiting the time and the men to break the bands and shake off the yoke which the long mediæval night had bound upon it. Definite outpourings of truth had been seen in the movements of John Huss and his followers in Bohemia, of Wickliffe and the Lollards in England, and the politico-religious teachings of Savonarola in Italy. These had prepared the way. They were the John the Baptists of the Reformation: Luther, Melancthon, Zwingle, and Calvin, heard the voice, half stifled though it was, and set themselves to obey it, seeking, however, only the correction of certain abuses, not dreaming at first of the extent they were to go, nor the separation from the mother Church, which their movement made unavoidable. The Church of Rome had gone so far in her apostasy, as to teach that none could either come to God or approach Christ, except through the Church. To correct this, and propound the true doctrine, that each man might come to God, through Christ, of himself, regardless of the rules of Churches or help of Popes, was the great design in the incipient stages of the Reformation.

It therefore follows, that all doctrines and questions not directly involved in that idea, would naturally remain in nearly or quite the same state as before. This was the case with the question before us, for some time at least. It was not until the second act came upon the stage, and the reformation of the "Reformation" commenced, in which Puritanism was born, that any new doctrine on this question was promulgated. What this was, we shall in time see.

Before proceeding to note more particularly the views of the fathers of "Protestantism" on this question, I desire to call attention to the fact that thus far the orthodox theory in the Church has been, that under the Gospel, nothing Jewish, the Sabbath included, is binding; that the Church may appoint whatever she sees fit of ceremonies or observances, for the sake of order or convenience, and that these are to be obeyed as the appointment of the Church; even the more Judaical theories of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, were grounded in the authority of the Church to appoint the observance of festivals, and enforce it through the civil power, and not upon any God-appointed idea of a Sabbath; and we ask especial attention to the fact, that the leading reformers taught a doctrine looser even than this, and that the struggle concerning the Sabbath, which arose with the Puritans in the latter part of the sixteenth century, was, on the one hand, between the idea of any sacred weekly rest, and, on the other, of no sacred time whatever under the Gospel; and this struggle has ever since continued, the Continent of Europe, in its practice, upholding the latter idea. Indeed, since the decline of Sabbath observance, and the introduction of legalized festivals, beginning with Constantine and Sunday, the Continent has known only here and there, now and then, a sacred weekly rest.

That we may see more fully how widely the ideas of these leading minds must have spread, let us note where their doctrines were taught during the sixteenth century, beginning with Luther in 1517. The north of Germany, including Saxony, Brandenburg, Hesse, Pomerania, Mecklenburg, Lüneburg, Friesland, and nearly all the free cities, as Hamburg, Lübeck, Bremen, Magdeburg, Frankfurt, and Nuremberg, had received the doctrines of Luther as early as 1530, at which time the "Augsburg Confession" was drawn up by Melancthon.

In Switzerland, the reformation was contemporaneous, but distinct from that in Germany, commenced by Zwingle, shaped by Calvin, and carried on to the close of the century by Bullinger and Beza.

In France, the movement met much more opposition than in either Germany or Switzerland, and it was not until it was fully established in these countries, that it gained much ground among the French; it then slid over from Switzerland. Calvin and Beza were really the fathers of it, and its main features were Calvinistic. This was about the middle of the century.

Netherlands, too, accepted it mainly at the hands of Calvinistic teach-

ers, about 1570. Grotius was among the prominent teachers. Hungary received it from Luther and Melancthon, about the same time. Poland had been prepared for it by the Hussites, and adopted the Calvinistic system about 1550. Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, adopted the Lutheran system about 1587.

Thus was the Continent of Europe overrun by the Reformation; and when we shall have seen what were the opinions of these men on the question before us, we can at once decide the doctrine of those times and places.

OUR SORROW.

Our beloved President is dead, and the nation is clothed in the habiliments of mourning. From Maine to Georgia, from the Atlantic to the Pacific shore, the nation is stricken with the sad bereavement. Every loyal village drops a tear upon the wave of grief which rolls up from the ocean of sorrow. The blow which fell upon the head of him we loved, seemed the more dreadful, being inflicted by the hand of a midnight assassin. And then it fell upon us so unexpectedly, while the nation was exulting in a glorious victory, and every loyal heart was beating with joy. The long-wished-for day had come, the day of triumph, of peace, and hope. At this hour, the swift-flowing current of joy was turned to weeping. But we seem to hear him say, Weep not for me. Certainly not, for his life has been a success. Written fatherless at the age of six years, of course his minority was a struggle with the trials of life. From the district school, through the toll of a lawyer's practice, to the Legislature of the State, he met the responsible duties of his position most faithfully; and in his contest with the "little giant" for a seat in Congress, the fact was revealed, that he was a man of destiny. This was conceded by the nation's bestowing upon him the highest honor within the gift of the people. In the administration of the government he has been most successful. By his prudence he gathered around him, as his counsellors, the wisdom of the nation. He wisely set aside every thing that stood in the way of success. His honesty, the simplicity of his manners, and his persevering efforts to defend the nation's life, made him an example to good men for all time. The generosity of his nature, his wit and humor, and his habitual cheerfulness—all of these sanctified by trust in God—won the admiration of all loyal men. His love for the people, his sympathy for the poor slave, and his devotion to our common cause, secured for him the affections of the loyal millions as no other man ever enjoyed them. Then, at the zenith of his glory, when the rebellion, reeling, fell prostrate at his feet, when the song of jubilee re-echoed throughout our wide domain, he passed out of our sight. Well may we say, Weep not for me, but for yourselves, and for your children. We mourn over the sin of our land. We deplore the consequences of that wicked spirit which has drenched this land in blood. The same spirit which in bygone days insulted northern teachers on southern soil, that mobbed and killed a Lovjoy, and smote down a noble Senator in the Halls of Congress, that fired on Fort Sumter, and has starved and murdered our soldiers—that spirit has, by the hand of an assassin, struck down the chief magistrate of this nation. It is Slavery, "the sum of all villainies," the outrage on God and man. But its power is broken. The voice of freedom and justice dooms it to perdition, and let those who have determined to sacrifice everything for the "institution" die with it. As traitors, they are, in the sight of a just God and loyal men, responsible for this waste of treasure and blood. The leaders of this rebellion are great sinners. Is there any sense in shooting the delinquent picket, or hanging the incendiary, and branding with infamy the deserter, and then turning to coax and flatter these infamous men? Let those who have stained this soil with blood, be disfranchised or exiled. And as our representative has been struck down by this rebellion, this nation will never be satisfied, neither will justice be done, until Jefferson Davis, the representative of this rebellion, shall have visited upon him the just penalty of his crimes.

FEMALE GUARDIAN SOCIETY.

The Thirty-first anniversary meeting of the American Female Guardian Society was held at the Home Chapel. The room was filled with friends and patrons of the institution. There are now six schools under the supervision of the society, numbering in all 2,253 pupils. Of these, 893 were received during the last year, and 210 have been placed in good positions. The number of applications on hand for admission is 1,340. The Advocate and Family Guardian, a monthly journal published by this association, under the editorial charge of Mrs. S. R. I. Bennett, has realized an income of \$23,606 26; expenditures, \$21,718 76. The exercises were principally by and for the children; each school being mustered, exhibited and addressed in turn. Mrs. Bennett made the first address, and was followed by Mrs. Collins, a Quaker lady. Each child carried a little flag, and the room was decorated with mourning.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION.

At the sixteenth anniversary of the American and Foreign Christian Union, the financial secretary read an abstract of the Treasurer's report, from which it appeared that the receipts of the society were \$93,741 53. Speeches were made by the Rev. Dr. Jonas King, from Athens; the Rev. Mr. Orestes, a reformed Mexican priest; the Rev. Henry M. Scudder, late a missionary in India; and the Rev. Mr. Riley, of South America.

SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

At the meeting of the American Seamen's Friend Society, Rev. H. Loomis read the annual report, by which it appeared that the financial condition of the society is now good, the receipts last year having been \$43,067 83; expenditures, \$36,333

THE ANNIVERSARIES.

The New York daily papers of last week were largely occupied with reports and statistics of the principal national societies which were holding their anniversaries there. Of course we cannot think of printing those reports in full, but must content ourselves with giving a summary of the proceedings and statistics of the principal societies.

ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

The meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society was one of the most interesting ever held by that society. The question of continuing the organization was discussed at length, and with great earnestness, William Lloyd Garrison and others opposing it, and Wendell Phillips and others advocating it. The conclusion was to keep the society in existence, and Wendell Phillips was chosen President for the ensuing year. The following preambles and resolutions were presented and advocated by Mr. Garrison, but without success: Whereas, The formation of the American Anti-Slavery Society was rendered necessary by the universal complexity of the nation in the guilt of the slave system—church and state, government and people, constitution and Union, all being wickedly subservient to the will of a heaven-defying slave oligarchy; and Whereas, After thirty years of faithful testimony and untrifling labor on the part of the society to procure the emancipation of the millions held in bondage, and through Divine retribution poured out without mixture, and the treasonable attempt of the South to dismember the Union and overturn all free institutions, it is decreed by the nation that all fetters shall be broken and every bondsman set free; and Whereas, It is not for abolitionists to affect exclusiveness or seek isolation from the great mass of the people, when the reasons which compelled them to take such a position no longer exist; therefore, Resolved, That uniting our thanksgivings to God with those of the emancipated millions at the South, for the wonders he has wrought, and rejoicing with joy unspeakable that the year of jubilee has come, so that further anti-slavery agitation is uncalled for, we close the operations and the existence of the society with the present anniversary.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

At the forty-ninth Anniversary of the American Bible Society, the usual reports of officers were presented, from which the following statistics are taken: The receipts from all sources during the year have been \$777,851 36; of which \$404,722 16 was from sales of books; from donations, collections, legacies, &c., \$256,750 66; and from rents, \$16,378 54. Number of books printed at the Bible House, 1,432,665; and in foreign lands, 287,904; making a total of 1,720,569. Number of books issued from the Depository, 1,530,371 volumes; and in foreign lands, exclusive of those sent thither from the Bible House, 300,193; entire issues of the year 1,830,564. Aggregate issues of the last four years (of the year) 5,304,703 volumes. Total number of volumes issued since the organization of the society, 20,609,564. Books sold during the year, 796,365 volumes, valued at \$354,978 64. Books granted, 734,114 volumes (including 80 for the blind), valued at \$136,131 77. Grants to the United States Christian Commission, 416,840 volumes, valued at \$60,740 45. Total to the Christian Commission, 1,265,175 volumes. Granted to and distributed by our own agents and auxiliaries 102,791 volumes. For naval and marine and inland vessels, about 7,000 volumes, besides large supplies by local auxiliaries at various ports. To the freedmen, 33,754 volumes, (last year 18,494.) For southern troops and people, 58,500, besides books remitted in great numbers, granted last year. Prisoners of war, 33,694, in addition to supply by auxiliaries and the Christian Commission. To destitute Sunday schools, through American Sunday School Union and others, 21,887, and 646 Sunday schools, supplied by our own agents. The miscellaneous distribution has been large and varied.

AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The thirty-ninth anniversary meeting of the American Home Missionary Society took place May 9th. The receipts of the year were \$186,897 50, and the expenses \$180,965 39. The number of ministers of the gospel in the service was eight hundred and two; the congregations and the mission stations supplied estimated at one thousand five hundred and seventy-five; the number of children in the Sunday schools of the society, fifty-eight thousand six hundred; churches organized in the year, twenty-eight, of which twenty-five were self-supporting. On motion of Rev. Mr. Eastis, a resolution declaring that the destruction of the slaveholders' rebellion involved the necessity of reorganizing society in the southern states, in accordance with the ideas of justice, freedom and morality, and that the establishment of local churches with a God-fearing and untrammeled ministry and with a truth-loving devotion and pious membership should be a main instrumentality in the great work of reconstruction, was adopted. Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott then moved that in view of affairs in the South, the adoption of a new policy was required, and that the church should relinquish for the work their tried, Chapels. The room was filled with friends and patrons of the institution. There are now six schools under the supervision of the society, numbering in all 2,253 pupils. Of these, 893 were received during the last year, and 210 have been placed in good positions. The number of applications on hand for admission is 1,340. The Advocate and Family Guardian, a monthly journal published by this association, under the editorial charge of Mrs. S. R. I. Bennett, has realized an income of \$23,606 26; expenditures, \$21,718 76. The exercises were principally by and for the children; each school being mustered, exhibited and addressed in turn. Mrs. Bennett made the first address, and was followed by Mrs. Collins, a Quaker lady. Each child carried a little flag, and the room was decorated with mourning.

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91; leaving a balance in the treasury of \$6,843 92. Against this, however, there is a contingent liability of over \$3,000. The receipts of branches and auxiliaries, estimating three of them, not yet reported, by the receipts of last year, are \$34,369 17; making the total receipts \$77,337. The society has shipped during the past year 396 libraries, making, since 1859, 1,369 libraries, consisting of about 62,000 volumes. Of these libraries 540 are in the navy, and accessible to 58,000 seamen, and 829 in merchant vessels, accessible to nearly 30,000 men. During the year 3,794 boarders have been received in the Sailor's Home, making, since the institution was opened, twenty-three months ago, 69,984. Five hundred and twenty-six boarders have been received during the year in the Colored Sailor's Home, making 1,449 during the thirty months of actual working since 1862, it having been broken up for a time by the July riots.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

At the forty-ninth Anniversary of the American Bible Society, the usual reports of officers were presented, from which the following statistics are taken: The receipts from all sources during the year have been \$777,851 36; of which \$404,722 16 was from sales of books; from donations, collections, legacies, &c., \$256,750 66; and from rents, \$16,378 54. Number of books printed at the Bible House, 1,432,665; and in foreign lands, 287,904; making a total of 1,720,569. Number of books issued from the Depository, 1,530,371 volumes; and in foreign lands, exclusive of those sent thither from the Bible House, 300,193; entire issues of the year 1,830,564. Aggregate issues of the last four years (of the year) 5,304,703 volumes. Total number of volumes issued since the organization of the society, 20,609,564. Books sold during the year, 796,365 volumes, valued at \$354,978 64. Books granted, 734,114 volumes (including 80 for the blind), valued at \$136,131 77. Grants to the United States Christian Commission, 416,840 volumes, valued at \$60,740 45. Total to the Christian Commission, 1,265,175 volumes. Granted to and distributed by our own agents and auxiliaries 102,791 volumes. For naval and marine and inland vessels, about 7,000 volumes, besides large supplies by local auxiliaries at various ports. To the freedmen, 33,754 volumes, (last year 18,494.) For southern troops and people, 58,500, besides books remitted in great numbers, granted last year. Prisoners of war, 33,694, in addition to supply by auxiliaries and the Christian Commission. To destitute Sunday schools, through American Sunday School Union and others, 21,887, and 646 Sunday schools, supplied by our own agents. The miscellaneous distribution has been large and varied.

AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The thirty-ninth anniversary meeting of the American Home Missionary Society took place May 9th. The receipts of the year were \$186,897 50, and the expenses \$180,965 39. The number of ministers of the gospel in the service was eight hundred and two; the congregations and the mission stations supplied estimated at one thousand five hundred and seventy-five; the number of children in the Sunday schools of the society, fifty-eight thousand six hundred; churches organized in the year, twenty-eight, of which twenty-five were self-supporting. On motion of Rev. Mr. Eastis, a resolution declaring that the destruction of the slaveholders' rebellion involved the necessity of reorganizing society in the southern states, in accordance with the ideas of justice, freedom and morality, and that the establishment of local churches with a God-fearing and untrammeled ministry and with a truth-loving devotion and pious membership should be a main instrumentality in the great work of reconstruction, was adopted. Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott then moved that in view of affairs in the South, the adoption of a new policy was required, and that the church should relinquish for the work their tried, Chapels. The room was filled with friends and patrons of the institution. There are now six schools under the supervision of the society, numbering in all 2,253 pupils. Of these, 893 were received during the last year, and 210 have been placed in good positions. The number of applications on hand for admission is 1,340. The Advocate and Family Guardian, a monthly journal published by this association, under the editorial charge of Mrs. S. R. I. Bennett, has realized an income of \$23,606 26; expenditures, \$21,718 76. The exercises were principally by and for the children; each school being mustered, exhibited and addressed in turn. Mrs. Bennett made the first address, and was followed by Mrs. Collins, a Quaker lady. Each child carried a little flag, and the room was decorated with mourning.

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