

The Tract Department.

EDITED BY A. H. LEWIS, Agent of the American Sabbath Tract Society.

BOUND HAND AND FOOT.

Every healthy organism has the power of self-purification, through the normal action of its parts, or by special effort. The church is subject to this law. A healthy church will keep itself pure by the right action of each member, or by a vigorous discipline in case of temporary disease.

LESSONS OF THE FIRE.

Under the above head the Christian Observer gives utterance to the following words: "Three accidents this year have sent a thrill of horror through the island ferry-boat on a Sunday afternoon, by which one hundred lives were lost—the majority Sabbath-breakers; the accident on the Ocean Wave at Mobile, on a Sunday; when a large number were summoned into eternity; and the fire in Chicago, on a Sunday, when uncounted lives were lost, and the slow accumulations of years were swept away in a few short hours.

DISCUSSING THE SABBATH.

During the late session of the Wisconsin State Convention of Presbyterian and Congregational churches at Fond-du-Lac, the Sabbath question came in for a share of attention. We are told by the Advance, that "in the evening of Friday, there was a meeting of much value. Four brethren presented their thoughts on four points connected with the observance of the Christian Sabbath."

OUR CHICAGO EXCHANGES.

With a wonderful vigor, Chicago is springing to life from its ashes. Among its good things the Advance comes first to our table, only apparently reduced in size, and having missed but a single issue. It is a happy disappointment to see its face so soon, for we place it first upon the list of Chicago papers, which we know not how to do without. It has some pertinent remarks relative to the late calamity, from which we extract the following:

THE STOP-MY-PAPER ARGUMENT.

There is a man (a clergyman, too), at Walla Walla, W. T., who has heretofore taken the Congregationalist (Boston), but who has sternly refused to take it any longer, because that journal does not denounce secret societies. He believes in the Old-Fellowship, and the other orders, to be of the devil; he thinks that his newspaper should be of his own opinion, and therefore he writes: "I propose to convert you by withholding \$3 from your treasury."

COURAGE AND MODESTY.

It is somewhat refreshing to hear of one man at least who has, after writing a book, had the moral courage to refrain from printing it. This man was the late W. W. Wallcut, of Jefferson Co., Ga., just dead, at the highly respectable age of 96 years. He was greatly given during his whole life to the study of hieroglyphics, and supposed that he had found out a key by which all apparent hieroglyphics in the Bible and other books could be recognized. He got a volume on the subject all ready for the press, and there he stopped, but whether for want of publisher or pluck, or out of commendable modesty, we are not informed.

UNIVERSALISTS ARE AWAKE TO THE CLAIMS OF CHICAGO.

On Sunday, Oct. 22d, the congregation of Dr. Chapin's church (New York) contributed \$121,000 in cash, and loaned, without interest, \$5,000 toward rebuilding St. Paul's Universalist Church in Chicago.

Does not God know?

Have you forgotten that He is just? Will not your false deceptions and broken pledges confront you in the day of account-giving? Is it a small matter, that you teach your children to sin, and corrupt the church by tying her hands? In the name of truth, we beseech you, in the name of God, we warn you. The end of such things is death.

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WESTLEY, R. L., PUBLISHER, Nov. 2, 1871. GEORGE B. FITZGERALD, EDITOR.

A PROCLAMATION.

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The Executive Board of the American Sabbath Tract Society having voted to take the subscription list of the Sabbath Recorder, and assume the publication of the paper, it becomes absolutely necessary to collect what is due us, and pay what we owe. With this view, we are now sending bills to those indebted for papers, showing what is due to the end of the current volume, Dec. 21, 1871, according to the books of the office. If these bills are found incorrect in any respect, we shall be grateful for early information of the fact, so that our books may be corrected. They are made out at the rate of \$2 50 per year, which is the price of the paper in advance. If paid before the end of the volume, they will be received in full. If not paid before that time, \$3 per year will be charged, according to our published terms, to cover expense of collection. It is hoped that those who owe us will feel called upon to make a special effort to pay up at once, and so save the expense, to themselves and to us, of collecting through one of the agencies established for the purpose, or by a personal visit. The time is short to the end of the volume, but it is long enough for every one owing us to pay up, and get the benefit of this proposition. A small measure of the diligence which has been required of us to issue the paper regularly, or of the effort which has been required of us to supply the necessary money to keep it running, will enable all to cancel their indebtedness within the time named above.

MISSION OF C. M. LEWIS.

Dear Christian, Nov. 2, 1871. To the Editor of the Sabbath Recorder. With ten of the brethren and sisters of the Seventh-day Baptist church in Transit, I arrived at this place on Sixth-day last, (Oct. 20th), to attend the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Seventh-day Baptists of Minnesota—just one month from the time I addressed you last from New Auburn, whether I had gone to visit and labor among our brethren in Sibley County. That month has been one of deep and memorable interest to the missionary, and some advancement to the cause of Christ, which we all love. The extra religious meetings held with the Transit church, had been continued a little over four weeks when I left, and were still going on with unabated interest. And while Eld. Hiram W. Babcock, the pastor, and several of the prominent members of the church had necessarily to be absent a few days to attend the meeting at Waseo, Eld. Zuriel Campbell, who still resides in the vicinity, stepped in to conduct the meetings, and I have preached in all thirty-three times. As the result of the effort thus far, twelve have obtained hope, and were received into the church by baptism, on Sabbath, Oct. 7th, and four more on the Sabbath following, the 14th of October. On the same day, five were received into the fellowship of the church, by letter from sister churches; in all, twenty-one. Thus is the church revived, and made stronger for the good work in the North-West, and the hearts of our ministering brethren Babcock and Campbell encouraged to preach the gospel with new power. The cordiality with which our brethren

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

A meeting will be held at Stone Fort, Saline Co., Ill., commencing on Sixth-day before the first Sabbath in December next, for the purpose of organizing a Yearly Meeting. Stone Fort is about thirty-five miles east of Carbondale. Brethren who may come from a distance, will please address Capt. J. H. McSparrin, or Eld. Robert Lewis, Stone Fort, and arrangements will be made to convey them from Carbondale. A general invitation is given.

THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

The oldest religious publishing house in America has found it so expensive to do its own publishing, that it has been compelled to discontinue it, and hires its publishing of an individual firm.—Independent. "We do not approve of a religious society entering the field as a publisher, and using the funds that have come, directly or indirectly, from benevolent contributions, to do it. It is a most unchristian and unchristian thing, which can never exist private enterprise. We have said this often before, and it is more and more our conviction, that the day in which there was any justification for such a course is passed.—Ibid.

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