







The Sabbath Recorder.

Alfred Centre, N. Y., Fifth-day, July 20, 1882.

All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to "THE SABBATH RECORDER, Alfred Centre, Allegany Co., N. Y."

A PERSONAL MATTER.

The Christian religion is, pre-eminently, a personal religion. Its central fact is a Person, and not an abstraction. Its system of doctrine grows up around the life and work of a Person, and not around an idea.

As at its beginning, so also in all its subsequent stages, religion continues a personal matter. No one expects or desires to go to heaven by proxy.

There is, it is true, much in human society, especially in the church and family life, by which life's duties are made easy and its burdens are lightened; but, in the last analysis, every man must do his own duty, and meet his own responsibility.

DECLINE OF POWER IN THE PULPIT.

(Concluded.)

Five articles, of half a column each, make only two and a half columns—surely, little enough space to devote to so important a topic as this.

In summing up the remedies, I would say, 1. Let a reform begin with the pulpit itself. The preacher should somehow bring himself to realize more profoundly the importance of his work.

years; when I first commenced, oh! how I disliked to be called Elder; I suppose the reason was chiefly, because I had come to this duty through such a long and deep valley of humiliation—during some twenty years. I had so often secretly rejoiced that I was not a minister; was not fettered and tied up as I supposed I should have to be if I were.

2. There should be a reform also in the pew. The laity should pray for the preacher, while he is preaching, before, and after. They should make more of their minister; alas! so many ministers conduct themselves in such an undignified manner and worldly spirit, the members of their charge can not make as much of them as they would be glad to do.

INGERSOLLISM.

Col. Robert G. Ingersoll was the youngest of five children, and was born in 1833, in Dresden, near Lake George, N. Y. His father was a Congregationalist minister, and brought up his children in the stern way of the old Puritans.

"The Bible was originally written in the Hebrew language, and the Hebrew language at that time had no vowels in writing. It was written entirely in consonants. After you go home to-night, write an English sentence or two with only consonants close together, and you will find it will take twice as much inspiration to read it as it did to write it."

But he gives his definition of inspiration in plain terms: "Nothing needs inspiration but a falsehood or a mistake."

He claims, however, to excel all others in reading the Scriptures, for he says in the same lecture: "Everybody talks about the Bible, and nobody reads it. I am probably the only

man in the United States who has read the Bible through the past year. I have wasted that time, but I had a purpose in it."

Poor man to confess he read it from sheer selfishness! His religion, as might be expected, does not rise any higher than this world.

"What is religion? Religion simply embraces the duty of man to man."—Lecture on Skulls.

But he is exceedingly bitter against all ideas of future punishment, and at the same time scouts the idea of pardon for himself or others.

"I do not believe in forgiveness. Eternal inexorable, everlasting justice, that is what I believe in."

Poor, deluded creature, to refuse pardon, grace, and glory, through Jesus Christ, and go off into such blank darkness as eternal, inexorable everlasting justice.

But Mr. Ingersoll has a keen sense on money matters. He flatly denies that Christ ever told the young man to go sell what he had, and give to the poor, for that, was put in by the priests to get money out of the people. He then adds,

"The church has always been willing to swap the treasures of heaven for cash down."

This comes with good grace from the Colonel, who charges \$200 a night for a lecture, and half a dollar a head to get in at the door! No, no! Col. Ingersoll will never make a John the Baptist, living on locusts and wild honey, nor a Saul of Tarsus, suffering all things that he might win some. He has reached his high water mark. He has attracted the scoffers about him just as the bold blasphemer draws a crowd, but still on and on, deeper and wider and fuller, the rivers of the waters of life are flowing, more serenely and savingly than before.

L. R. S.

MENE TEKEL.

How strangely do the rising glories of our nation's sunrise, and the red glare of her coming sunset, blend in those most significant transactions which have come to light in the proceedings of the present Congress. The American nation sat in grief, and the whole civilized world sat with her, as the sad procession bore our murdered President to his last resting place.

But the tale of horror does not end here. The nation celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the battle and victory of Yorktown, which closed the struggle for independence, on the 19th of October, 1881. Last week, in discussing the general deficiency bill, calling for \$32,328, it came out that \$6,529 94 of the amount called for was to pay for the liquor, cigars, and tobacco, consumed by the committee of Congress having the ceremonies of the celebration in charge.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes items like 9 gallons Maderal, 2 dozen cases same, 8 gallons cabinet sherry, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes items like 2 jugs Curacao, 3 cases Congress water, 2 cases Old Tom gin, etc.

Total \$7,460 70 Goods returned 960 76 Balance \$6,529 94

WINE A REMEDY FOR INTEMPERANCE.

The venerable Thurlow Weed, in a recent letter to the New York Tribune, says that, "After more than forty years of earnest and persistent efforts, prohibitory liquor laws have signally failed to promote the cause of temperance."

But Mr. Weed's plan, to head off the evil, by the use of cheap wine, is fatally defective, in that he could never make wine a substitute for distilled spirits. Wine would but educate the appetite for the stronger and more intoxicating liquors, and the weaker would have to give place to the stronger.

ALFRED UNIVERSITY.—THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.—Rev. A. E. Main has been appointed to the Professorship of Hebrew and Greek Exegesis, and Biblical Literature, by a unanimous vote of the Trustees.

The Professors in this Department, as now organized, as we understand it, are: Rev. J. Allen, D. D., Ph. D., Natural Theology; Rev. T. R. Williams, D. D., Systematic Theology; Rev. A. E. Main, Hebrew and Greek Exegesis and Biblical Literature; Rev. A. H. Lewis, D. D., Church History and Homiletics; Rev. D. E. Maxson, D. D., Pastoral Theology.

With the Theological Department of our own University so manned, it would seem that there could be no valid reason for our young men preparing for the ministry to go to other institutions to secure all needed advantages, and we bespeak a hearty support from our people, and such an endowment as shall place the Department above any embarrassment.

The friends of President Allen will be pleased to hear that his European trip has already proved so beneficial that his health is better than it has been for some years, and they will not fail to remember with gratitude the generosity of Bro. C. Potter, who made such a trip possible.

Communications.

RESTING ABROAD.

BY THE CRAM CLUB.

On the 13th of June, a party of weary workers embarked on the steamship Arizona, for a Summer's rest in foreign lands. After the enthusiastic "God speeds" had been said by loving friends, their floral tributes duly admired, and the city of New York had faded into the distance, an account was taken of the party, to know who was who.

Our good ship carried us so smoothly and steadily, we found it hard to realize that we were rushing through the water at the rate of twenty-seven feet per second. Old Ocean presented her calmest aspect all the way, doubtless lulled to rest by the venerable appearance and flowing beards of several of the party, enough like Neptune to have been his sons, and, as a consequence, instead of sorrowful stories of sea-sick sufferings, we have the pleasure to report that the Cram Club were on duty at every meal during the voyage.

The first few days were bright. After passing six inbound steamers, one of which, the Spain, passed so near we could hear the cheers of her passengers, two outward bound barkers, a fine specimen of an iceberg, and a few whales, we were fairly beyond the Banks, in "the roaring forties," but their roaring for us was like the cooing of doves. For the next two days nothing was in sight, not even the sun, for clouds and mist shut in around us, and we were "alone on the deep."

The Sabbath was a day of rest indeed. Sunday evening, by invitation of the Captain, Parson preached to a fine audience, and received so many evidences of appreciation that it was remarked that his egg-eat-ism showed itself unmistakably at breakfast the next morning.

On the morning of the eighth day out, while we were at breakfast, word came that land was in sight. True, however, to the traditions of the Club, all sat through the remainder of the meal without missing a dish, and then seizing their field glasses, rushed upon deck. Two sharp peaks slowly coming out of the misty distance and the dim outline of a range of mountains were all that could be seen. We soon found, however, we were off the Skelligs, on the coast of Ireland, some sixty miles north of our course, owing to the fogs which had hidden the sun for three days.

Passing Valentia, where is the eastern end of the Atlantic cable, the Bull, Cow and Calf, Bantry Bay, Three Castle Head, Mizzen Head, where is an ancient ruin, and Cape Clear with its well known light, we coasted along the south shore of the Green Isle, lovely with its verdure, yellow fields, and white cottages. On nearly every headland was seen ruins of the ancient Martello towers, formerly used for signaling the approach of an enemy, the little fishing vessels with their

bright red sails, the several outward bound steamers, soon came into sight, the tug and, bidding a sorrowful adieu, we had made aboard town, 7 days 19 hours a very rapid passage including miles south to sea the sixty miles north. Well did our Irish driver greyhound of the sea. At Queenstown, we enouch to telegraph hon visit to the Cathedral, tation of being foreigner and to get a taste of the beggar in the old hags ing upon us sprigs of took a small steamer up Lee to Cork. In the beauties of hill and verd by castle and moat, an queer looking sails and ers, with the added char Irish maiden, with the rehearse the traditions passed our first evening.

TRIP TO THE NORTH-WEST.

We had the pleasure of attending the late session of the Association, held at W was a feast of good things of it served up by the D Associations. But little in business, the most of sermons, essays, devotion work and services. The wise departure. There profit as well as of pleas Association. The Ass somewhat aside, to atten most of the delegates.

Our first ride was Northwestern Railroad, most extensive and best in the Northwest. In the regions beyond, an running into some of the scenery, and to some of places and Summer rest. Our people have agers of this road very, modating, and especial our delegates, though not held on any of its Southern Wisconsin to level, rich country, farms, large cherry and gardens and thriving to their new depot, which most elegant, spacious, in Chicago. Our trip Hallock was on the and Pacific Railroad, oughfare of the West main line to Bureau Chillicothe on the Peor a new route to the most from their massive grand, we passed through country just such as The enjoyment of the running many miles al which was swollen and rains. This great train some of the most towns of this great S not to go into prison and view busy LaSalle destination. The coac dining car furnished season and culinary art courteous and obliging grateful for the genero this road to our little visitors, and many of u we will pass over this r and wabouts do not t tion bosses or superint ing public.

The brethren of Wes to an overflow of S among them. Though floods came, roads were quent, yet with cheerf and ready teams, ou plied. The hearts of as their broad, rich will come again some nier and everything ju

Home. Moving is in order. The temperance ref than usual attention.







