









the mouth of Peter or of Philip, and if soul does not utterly revolt at the project consider how much below the dignity of the Holy Word, how foreign to the context, how thoroughly unnatural and comparatively trivial it all

But, Scripture aside, what has been our experience, where "offer to the church for membership" has been insisted upon as a requisite to baptism, or has been treated, as a matter of course, as essentially a part of the same religious duty? Injury, to all concerned; to the pastor, to the church, and to the candidate. The laborers, thus, not directly to the conversion, the repentance, belief, and baptism, not to an increase of Godliness,—that indirectly, to be sure,—but directly chiefly for increase in church membership.

But, Scripture aside, what has been our experience, where "offer to the church for membership" has been insisted upon as a requisite to baptism, or has been treated, as a matter of course, as essentially a part of the same religious duty? Injury, to all concerned; to the pastor, to the church, and to the candidate.

ated by the spirit of God is formally recognized and set forth in the rite of baptism. when, therefore, one has been truly converted, if properly instructed, he desires to be baptized, not only because of his Lord's command, but because the service represents, in beautiful and expressive symbol, the change which has been wrought in his moral nature.

Now all who are thus converted are in the family of Christ, in the spiritual church. But the spiritual church is represented by the literal organization. The literal church was appointed by Christ, was organized by the inspired apostles and is a necessity for the prosecution of Christian work in the world.

The situation then is this: The believer is baptized to represent his faith in Christ and his spiritual condition; he becomes a member of the literal church, organized in the world to represent his new relations to Christ and to the redeemed, and for the successful prosecution of the work which these relations demand at his hands.

But suppose one presents himself for baptism who gives every evidence that he is converted, but who is not ready for church membership, because he has not yet decided what is truth and what is right concerning certain questions upon which denominations differ.

A. B. PRENTICE.

OUR PAPER.

The interest I feel in the prosperity of the Recorder, of the Helping Hand etc., is my only apology for writing this letter. For years I have had much anxiety for the better support of our Recorder. I say our, for I feel safe in saying that the SABBATH RECORDER and the Helping Hand belong to us as a denomination, they are essential to our religious life.

Praying always for the prosperity of our cause, I remain yours in Christian bonds. A. COLGROVE.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, July 11th 1885.

The convention of delegates of agricultural colleges, called by Agricultural Commissioner Colman, met Wednesday in the room of the seed division of the Agricultural Department.

Commissioner Colman stated, in explaining the call of the convention, that he thought he saw the necessity of the friends of agricultural colleges meeting together to take a reckoning. The prominent idea in the endowments granted by Congress for the support of agricultural colleges was that of instructing young men in farming operations and in the fundamental principles of plant culture, so that they would learn how to realize profits in raising crops without diminishing the fertility of the soil.

While depreciating the idea that in conducting farming operations on college lands the work should mainly be of an experimental character, he held that no opportunity should be lost to introduce examples of processes known to be valuable, even if not generally adopted. He mentioned climatic influences upon plants, and the principles governing the rotation of crops as subjects worthy of investigation by colleges.

"So far as this department is concerned," said the commissioner in conclusion, "It will co-operate most heartily, most thoroughly, with the agricultural colleges of the respective colleges of the states of this nation."

After Burke had delivered his matchless oration on Warren Hastings, and England was filled with his praise, his brother, Richard said: "I wonder how Ned contrived to monopolize the talent of the family. Then I remember when we boys were carousing Ned was always at study."

Home News.

New York. WELLSVILLE.

Sabbath, the 11th inst., was a cheerful day for the Seventh-day Baptist Society of Wellsville. Thirty-two adult persons were present, at the preaching services. Adding the younger members it made quite a congregation.

After preaching, a short time was given to conference in which twelve took part. The friends seemed to enjoy this part of the meeting very much, it being the first service of the kind since the meeting was organized.

Elder Titworth of Alfred Centre, will preach for them next Sabbath.

There is quite a desire to arrange for church organization and so carry out the original plan according to the gospel order. L. M. C.

LINCOLN CENTRE.

Rev. J. Clarke closed his labors with the Seventh-day Baptist Church in this place, June 27, 1885. There was a larger congregation than usual to listen to his discourse. He has labored faithfully and earnestly for many years, preaching to us the word of life.

WHEREAS, Eld. J. Clarke, pastor of the DeRuyter Seventh-day Baptist Church, has labored for us long and faithfully, preaching afternoon and evening for many years; and,

WHEREAS, his earnest and self-sacrificing labors have resulted in the encouraging, strengthening, and building up of this church, and in gathering a large proportion of our present membership; therefore,

Resolved, That we do hereby express our appreciation of and gratitude for these efficient labors which have been, for the past three years, largely gratuitous; and that we shall ever cherish for him high regard as a faithful Christian minister, and will pray that the blessing of God may attend him.

H. D. BURDICK, Church Clerk.

Condensed News.

Domestic.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS.—The June report of the agricultural department issued July 10th, says the month has been favorable to the development of winter wheat and a slight improvement is indicated which advances the general average between two and three points, or from sixty-two to nearly sixty-five per cent.

The immense corn area of last year has apparently been increased about six per cent., or at least a million acres. The largest increase is in the Missouri Valley. The condition of corn is higher than in any year since 1880, except last year.

The condition of corn is higher than in any year since 1880, except last year. It averages ninety-four against ninety-six in 1884. It is higher in the South and higher on the Atlantic coast than in the West.

The general average of oats is ninety-seven in place of ninety-three last month. Oats have shared with all cereals in the improvement of the month. The only states below ninety are New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and California.

The condition of barley averages ninety-two; of tobacco, ninety-six. Cotton has made a material improvement during June, the average condition having increased from ninety-two to ninety-six.

The New Orleans Board of Health officially denies that there is any yellow fever in the city other than the one case reported some days ago.

The first day's meetings of the American Institute of Instruction, at Newport, R. I., July 7th, were very largely attended. The exercises were of unusual interest. President Patterson delivered the address.

Myriads of frogs are said to infest Eagle Pass, Texas, and vicinity. They have multiplied so fast that the earth is literally covered with them. They are moving in a south-east direction.

A special train on the West Shore railway containing a party of inspecting officials made a run of sixty-four miles in fifty-five minutes. No stops were made during the run.

A terrible hail storm passed over a section of country near Sand Beach, Michigan, three or four miles long by ten wide, July 9th, going over the lake at Port Hope. Great damage resulted to standing crops. The hail beat out windows and otherwise injured buildings.

It is reported that oil has been struck at the Galway oil field, Saratoga county, N. Y., at a depth of 100 feet. In boring, the drill passed through a stratum of salt and afterwards struck a vein of gas. Oil spouted to a considerable height and still there is quite a flow.

In the United States court Judge Bond has offered the decree of the district court awarding three colored women damages of \$1,000 each for having been excluded from first-class sleeping apartments on the steamer Sue, after they had purchased first-class tickets.

The half-holiday movement has partially gone into effect in the city of Rochester, N. Y., a number of leading business houses closing their doors in the afternoon of one day in the week. There is a division among merchants as to the day. Saturday is impracticable, as on that day the country trade is heavy.

O. K. Coony, the Mexican consul in San Francisco, in an interview on the subject of selling Mexican territory to the United States, says that the published reports in the matter are without significance, as the Mexican administration would not dare, in opposition to the prevailing public sentiment to project the sale of any portion of Mexican territory.

Foreign.

The Novoe Vremia declares that Russia will concede nothing on the Afghan question.

The Porte intends to continue negotiations with England for Turkish occupation of the Soudan, at Egypt's expense.

Earthquake shocks continue to be felt in the Vale of Cashmere at intervals of three days. On the fourth a severe shock was felt at Serinagar.

At the opening of the Limerick assizes, the Court congratulated the Grand Jury on the present peaceful condition of Ireland, and the jury passed a set of resolutions thanking the Queen's government for allowing the Irish crimes act to lapse.

It is said that Riel's counsel will subpoena Sir John Macdonald, Sir John McPherson and the Hon. A. P. Caron. The defense will contest the constitutionality of the criminal court in the Northwest, and if an unfavorable verdict is returned they will appeal to the privy council.

The policy of the English government as outlined by the Marquis of Salisbury in the House of Lords recently, is not regarded in France and Germany as altogether reassuring and his statements had the effect of causing a weak feeling on both Paris and Berlin Bourses.

The news from Madagascar is of a most serious nature. Admiral Miott waiting for reinforcements is obliged to act strictly on the defensive. Twelve thousand Hovas besiege the French occupying the Mozanga fort. The besieged are able to communicate with Admiral Miott only by sea.

GEORGE ELIOT'S BIRTHPLACE.

From the opening paper in the July Century, on "George Eliot's County," written by Rose G. Kingley and illustrated by Homer Martin and Alfred Parsons, we quote the following concerning the house in which the great novelist was born: "It is a pleasant, substantial house, built of warm red brick, with old-fashioned, small paned casement windows. The walls are almost hidden by creepers, a glorious old pear-tree, roses and Jasmine, and over one end a tangle of luxuriant ivy. Across the smooth green lawn and its flower beds, an old stone vase covered with golden lichen made a point of color beneath the silver stems of a great birch-tree. Outside the light iron fence a group of sheep were bleating below a gnarled and twisted oak. Behind them rose the rich purple-brown wood we had come through and beyond the wood we caught glimpses of far away blue distance, swelling uplands, and wide stretching valleys, with here and there a huge chimney sending up a column of black smoke or white puff of steam. On the house roof pigeons were cooing forth their satisfaction at the sunshine. From the yew-tree close by, a concert of small chirping voices told that Spring was coming, while a blackbird in the bushes made violent love to his mate and wooed her with jovial, rollicking song.

"Within, the house is much in the same state as in the days of Mary Ann Evans's girlhood. She went for a short time to school in Nuneaton, coming home from Saturday till Monday; but one week, in spite of her love of learning, the little maiden's heart failed her, and when the time came to start for school she had disappeared. After hours of search she was at last discovered hiding under the great four-post mahogany bed, which was shown us in its original place in the spare room. Upstairs in the roof is a large attic store-room, through which runs

the main chimney-stack of the house; and any one who remembers Maggie Tulliver will easily recognize this as the favorite retreat where she revenged herself on the much-enduring fetich,

"Grinding and beating the wooden head against the rough brick of the great chimneys that made two square pillows supporting the roof." (Mill on the Flow).

"The gardens, the fields, every spot seems familiar to one from some exquisite and tender touch scattered here and there throughout the writings of our great Warwickshire novelist. . . . Beyond the hollows, on a green ridge, stands 'the College'—the work-house to which poor Amos Barton 'walked forth in cape and boa, with the sleet driving in his face.'

"We wandered back across the rolling grass-clad ridge and furrows of the homestead—through a tiny paddock where three new-born lambs were bleating beside their mothers, and plump glossy fowls bustled to and fro to the sweet, old-fashioned kitchen garden. A long nut-tree walk runs its whole length, ending in an old arbor, which with its stone table recalls to one's mind the Summer-house at Lowick, where Dorothea found Mr. Casaubon sleeping his last sleep. The stone dial of little Mary Anne's childish days still stands on the grass plot, and from a couple of blocks of stone in one corner we looked over the tall, closely clipped garden hedge to the Arbury woods, a mile or two away, where little black-eyed Caternia found Anthony Wybrow lying dead in the rookery of 'Cheverell Manor.'

SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE Seventh-day Baptist Society, of Wellsville, N. Y., will hold regular service on the Sabbath, in the vestry of the Baptist church, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Bible-school is held before the preaching service. A cordial invitation is extended to all. L. M. C.

CHICAGO MISSION.—Mission Bible-school at the Pacific Garden Mission Rooms, corner of Van Buren St. and 4th Avenue, every Sabbath afternoon at 2 o'clock. Preaching at 3 o'clock. All Sabbath-keepers in the city, over the Sabbath, are cordially invited to attend.

PLEDGE CARDS and printed envelopes for all who will use them in making systematic contributions to either the Tract Society or Missionary Society, or both, will be furnished, free of charge, on application to the SABBATH RECORDER, Alfred Centre, N. Y.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.—In pursuance of an order of Clarence A. Farnum, Esq., Surrogate of the County of Allegany, notice is hereby given, according to law, to all persons having claims against John Crandall, late of the town of Friendship, in said county, deceased, that they are required to exhibit the same, with vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, one of the executors of the will of the said deceased, at his residence in the town of Genesee, on or before the 5th day of September, 1885. E. R. CRANDALL, Executor. ELIZA M. CRANDALL, Executrix. Dated Feb. 26, 1885.

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hundred monkeys jumped up in the... and just for one instant there was...

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