



New York, February 24, 1853.

DESTITUTION OF OUR CHURCHES.

We wish to say a word or two respecting the scarcity of ministerial gifts in our denomination. The recent death of one of our best laborers brings up the subject anew, though we have occasionally touched upon it before. We want to say something, for our heart is oppressed; but what to say, and how to say it, we are at a loss.

But in reference to this subject, we have insisted upon prayer heretofore. Whether any body considered what we wrote worthy of a second thought, we know not. Very likely it was read, and forgotten; a thing that we care very little about, so far as concerns ourselves.

But why are the dispensations of providence ordered in a manner apparently so unfavorable to our prosperity? Why are the watchmen taken from the walls, and their stations left vacant? Why does He who received gifts for men, leave our churches, for months and years, without spiritual guides?

It is "ordained that they who preach the gospel shall live of the gospel." The covenant entered into by every church organized upon the Christian platform, is a contract with God—a solemn pledge given to Christ—that the ministers sent to them, and placed over them, shall "live of the gospel."

God says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; as they watch for your souls, as they that must give account." When a church calls a man, requests him to go in and out before them, and take the pastoral oversight, it virtually pledges itself to honor his teachings.

But perhaps the ministry itself is not exempt from blame. Let those who bear the office begin to inquire. To every minister, Inspiration says, "Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

satisfaction to the heart of him who discharges it faithfully. But what is there to excite this feeling now? What do our young brethren see? What are they made to daily feel? Alas! In us who yet remain, bearing the sacred office, they see but too little to encourage them.

Indeed, when we consider all the discouragements thrown in the way, both by churches and the ministry, we do not wonder that so few are seeking the holy office. We are all gaily together, and though not all in the same degree, we presume there is not an individual among us, who may not, with propriety, enter into a solemn examination of himself, and inquire whether it is not on his account that all this evil is come upon us.

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE.

Opening of the Crystal Palace on Sunday—Discussions thereupon.

The London Society for promoting the Observation of Sunday rather than the Sabbath, has made a public "Appeal for Funds," in the expensive efforts they are now making, "in originating counter petitions from all parts of the country," against the Sunday opening of the Crystal Palace.

Mr. Mayhew in the chair, who said that "it was one of the most righteous meetings ever held;" and in the argument he employed, we have the fulfillment of that which the friends of the true Sabbath have long warned the church would be the result of their adherence to a traditionary Sabbath instead of returning to the day which the Lord hath sanctified and blessed.

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offer the new book of "denominational literature." There are many inquiring minds in our churches, that are not satisfied with what the pastor can furnish them. They want elaborate discussions on theological science. They want critical biblical interpretation. They want thorough exegetical works on disputed subjects, and are not satisfied to have ignorance, as the shadow of death, brood over their minds.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

To the Editors of the Sabbath Recorder:

In my former article, I reasserted the statement made in my speech before the Publishing Society, at its Anniversary in Plainfield, that "we never have had a denominational literature."

The Publishing Society is destined to harmonize and embody in a system of divinity the sentiments of the denomination. From Rhode Island on the east, to Virginia on the south, and California on the west, there is with us a uniform sentiment upon the Sabbath. The Sabbath has brought and bound us together.

I now propose to offer other reasons, which will illustrate our need of a "denominational literature." Books of a chaste, moral, or religious character, are among the best helps that the pastor has in his parochial labors.

When I first commenced writing, I did not intend to trespass on your columns so much, but I most respectfully beg leave to speak again.

PROPOSAL FOR A PRIZE ESSAY.

Most cheerfully do we comply with a request to publish the following proposal. The subject which it refers to, and is designed to bring before the Christian public, is one of vital importance to the well-being of the churches of all denominations.

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AGRICULTURAL LECTURES—NO. 3.

BY PROF. GURDON KYANS.

Organic Elements of the Plant.

In this latitude, April opens with warming suns, gentle showers, and growing vegetation. The warm earth again revives the dormant energies of the plant, and the life-giving gases now float around its new leaves. Our attention would naturally be directed to an investigation of the constituent elements and the laws governing the growth of the vegetable kingdom.

Wood is composed of carbon forty-four, oxygen thirty, and hydrogen twenty-six, in every one hundred parts. Nitrogen is not found, except in grains, bulbous roots, tubers, and a few vegetables. A beautiful and universal law pervades the combination of all the elements, which gives to each a fixed proportion in all its combinations with the other elements.

Our denomination has received valuable accessions from others. These retain some of their peculiarities. Since my acquaintance with the denomination, it never has been united in all its sentiments.

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW MOVEMENTS.

Michigan has passed the Maine Law through both branches of the Legislature by large majorities. The People are to vote on it in July. In Illinois the subject has been agitated, but the only progress made is in abolishing all License Laws.

HALF-CENTURY MISSIONARIES.

During the year 1852, there died in South Africa two venerable missionaries, Rev. William Anderson of Pauculsdorp, and Rev. Mr. Read of Kat River, both of whom left England in the year 1800, and after all the varied experiences incidental to a missionary life, deceased within a few months of each other.

RELIGIOUS INTEREST.

We hear of increased religious interest in several Seventh-day Baptist Churches. At the first church in Verona, N. Y., several persons were baptized last Sabbath. Within the bounds of the church in Hayfield, Pa., a number of conversions are reported, and a pleasant state of religious feeling exists.

animal and vegetable substances, the carbon in them is dissolved by the oxygen of the air; in combustion, it unites suddenly with oxygen; and in digestion the carbon is taken into the system, appropriated to its particular use, and afterwards carried to the lungs by the blood, where it unites with the oxygen of the air in the process of respiration.

Hydrogen combines with the other elements in the proportion of one. It is fourteen times lighter than air. Though it will not support combustion, yet by uniting with oxygen it burns and forms water. It composes one-ninth by weight of water, and united with oxygen forms more than one half of the vegetable. Its sources to the plant are water and watery vapor.

ROMAN CATHOLICS AND COMMON SCHOOLS.

The purpose of the Roman Catholics of this country to break up the system of Common School Education, by withdrawing the children of their flocks from the Schools as now constituted, and demanding separate education instead is shedded forth in various ways. The latest is through a letter of the Bishop of Pittsburgh to the Governor of Pennsylvania, in which he proposes to make every school in which a parent has confidence a public school, and give every teacher a share of what is appropriated for education in each district.

ERRATA.

There are two or three typographical errors in the article of Dr. Fahnestock, on our first page to-day, which should be corrected. In the first column, 19th line, for heart read breast of administrator. In the second column, 77th line, for imperative read inoperative. In the fourth column, first line, for offering read offering.



