

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

PHILADELPHIA. Society has not only its customs, but its fashions, the latter being the more transient and varying. Even public prayer, in form, has its fashions. Formerly, public (extempore) prayer, though not formal, had, as a general rule, something of form, as to matter. Or, it being, in order, it generally commenced with humble adoration of the Divine Majesty, followed by confession, thanksgiving, supplication, etc., and ending with doxology. There was, usually, so much order, that the worshipper was, in a measure, prepared for the several parts, and could readily join in them. All this was made, by devout and intelligent ministers, to consist with variety sufficient to keep up an interested attention. And the devout worshipper felt that he had been praying. The fashion in many pulpits now is, to strike right into the midst of things, ignoring order, and be as original in subjects and expressions as is possible, the worshipper having scarcely an idea what is to come next. He is to listen as to an elaborate discourse, the variety and the newness of the topics and allusions rendering it next to impossible to turn anything into prayer.

This is the new fashion. It is not adopted in every pulpit. Where it is, it might remind one of a story, relating to himself, which John Leland, it is said, used to tell. Everybody knows that John Leland was an original. The story is—He was on the road, driving a small flock of sheep to his place in Massachusetts. A man overtook him and entered into conversation with him, and, with true Yankee sociability, inquired of Mr. Leland where he was from, and where he was going. Leland told him. "Then," said the man, "I dare say you have heard of John Leland, the Baptist preacher?" Leland told him he had, and asked the man, "Do you know John Leland?" "O yes," said the man, "some." "Ever hear him preach?" "O yes." "Well, what do you think of him?" "Well," said the man, "but his preaching, I don't know much. But I tell you, he's great at praying." "Well, how does he pray?" "Why," said the man, "he jumps right into the middle of it, and prays both ways; and then strikes out every way, and it's hard to tell where he'll get up."

Young Men in the Cities. No one problem faces city churches more seriously than "What to do for Young Men." Says Dr. Fowler:—"Young men come from the country into the cities. They leave with a mother's blessing, and tears shower upon them like rain. The father's trembling hands are upon his head; the boy, weeping, bows to receive the father's benediction and prayer, and trembling accents go to God for guidance and protection upon the hope of his age as he goes out among strangers to carve out his fortune. He has gone; the city is reached; the days are worn away in unwonted and wearying work, and the nights are unoccupied. "Tell me, can a poor boy be expected to be strong enough to sit in a cold, unlighted, unwarmed room, on the fifth floor, when there is a street full of light and life surging below him? It is impossible. He has purchased by the toll of the day the right to the recreation of the night. He goes into the street and looks into the sea of strange faces; hunts up and down the show windows hour after hour. This he does for a little time; but soon he has seen all the show, and becomes familiar with all the faces, and has found no friend—no society. His heart burns and bleeds, and there is a call for society somewhere. He looks about him; all the homes are shut, and below him all the bells are open. He has never been there; but he stands on the threshold, looking in. There are music, gaiety, and life, and there are those who are social. The pious world has closed its doors, and there comes up before him something to meet the demands of his social nature. He trembles a moment on the threshold; the beam poises and balances on the pivot of his destiny. From the light, and the music, and the joy, hands beckon to him; he hesitates and trembles; he goes in; he is lost! He'll see him to-morrow! He washes up yonder to the surface of society a bloated wreck, or dangles a felon. Who murdered him? Where the guilt? Tell me, men of homes, was he not as good as your son or your daughter? Came he not from a father's prayers and a mother's tears? Has he not all through the year bowed at a family altar, and yet somehow you shut him out, and the Devil got him. God pity us in our exclusiveness! Part of the work of the church is to reach young men and feed them socially."

Methodist. —Are the Calvinistic Methodists of Wales Presbyterians? The Presbyterian papers of England, such as the Weekly Review, seem to claim it, and even go so far as to speak of their conferences as presbyteries and synods. —The New York and Brooklyn Associations of Methodist Episcopal Ministers met on Monday last, to discuss the question of licensing women preachers. —Bishop Clark has been blamed for transferring Rev. E. R. Keyes of Portland, Me., to the New York Methodist Conference only a few weeks before he was admitted into the Swedishborgian Church. But at the time Mr. Keyes assured the Bishop that he was thoroughly Methodist in doctrine, and wished to be reappointed to the same charge. This seeming inadvisable, he was at his request transferred to New York. Prescience must not be required of bishops. —The question of lay delegation in the Methodist Church is decisively settled in favor of the proposition. The vote has been a very tight one, showing that no deep interest is felt in it by the mass of the membership. In fact, it was a foregone conclusion. Last week the Methodist, the able unofficial paper of New York, had returned of 40,385 in favor and 12,024 against the plan. The Advocate of the same date, the official organ, and which, one would suppose, would have the best facilities for collecting information if it had the enterprise, reported only 28,263 votes in favor and 11,511 against the plan. —We did not mean any injustice by the lately Wesleyan church of Seneca Falls, N. Y., in repeating the American Wesleyan's version of its change to the Congregational order. A communication from that church assures us that the change was made in the most honorable manner and with general approval. Out of 120 or 125 members of the corporate society 93 signed the petition for the change of the corporate name, among whom were 5 out of the 6 trustees—all of the latter members of the church. The meeting at which the name of the church was changed was the regular business meeting, duly announced; and there were present at that meeting some 65 or 68 of the 84 resident members of the church, and that the resolution changing the name to Congregational was adopted after an hour's discussion by 43 yeas to 7 nays—some 20 or 22 declining to vote. Only 17 or 20 out of the entire resident membership opposed the movement. We congratulate the church on the evident good-will with which it has endorsed the movement towards union which is now interesting more than one of our Christian denominations. Those who can come together without sacrifice of their convictions ought to be glad to do so.—Independent.

Summary of Church News. —The Southern Presbyterian Church sent, week before last, to their mission in Brazil, three missionaries—Rev. G. Nash Morton and wife, and the Rev. E. M. Lane. They sailed from Baltimore, in the barkie Winifred, on the 23rd of June. —The Irish Presbyterian General Assembly would not discuss the Irish Church Bill. They evidently do not object seriously to it. Returns were received from 500 congregations, having 117,379 communicants. Each minister receives about £70 from the Register. —The Rev. Mr. McIndoo, who went out from this city, presented to the Irish Assembly from the greetings of the American Presbyterian Church, and gave most interesting and gladdening statistics as to the Old and New School Churches as to mission funds among the negroes. He was received with enthusiasm, and the Moderator of the Irish Assembly admirably and powerfully conveyed the warm feelings of the whole assembly, tending to himself "one hundred thousand welcome and prayers for enlarged blessing" himself and his country. —At the annual meeting of the English Church Union, June 15, Dr. Pusey, Mr. Mackonochie, and the leaders of the Ritualistic party solemnly pledged themselves afresh "to resist at all hazards any attempt to prohibit the teaching of the doctrine of the Real Presence in the Sacrament of the Eucharist." —Rev. Samuel R. Weidon, rector of the Episcopal church in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, has sent Bishop McVane a letter of withdrawal from the Church, on the ground of the Ritualistic tendencies of the Prayer Book, and the action of the late General Convention in forbidding brotherly courtesies to clergymen of other sects. However, he does not go to any other denomination, but continues his labors with his people as an independent Episcopal clergyman. —A correspondent of the Standard tells of a clergyman whose salary was made up by subscription. Not proving sufficient to support him, his wife gave music lessons. When the salary was collected, a man miser, who had subscribed \$10, refused to pay over \$5, because he had paid the minister's wife \$5 for a quarter's instruction in the piano. Another cut down his subscription from \$40 to \$20, because the wife received \$20 for teaching his daughter music.—Independent.

Special Notices. —A general meeting of the Stockholders will be held at the Office of the Company on July 14, 1869, at 10 o'clock. —DR. F. R. THOMAS, THE LATE OPERATOR of the Golden Dental Association, now the only one in Philadelphia who devotes his entire time and practice to extracting teeth, and who has been practicing for 25 years, at 127 WALNUT ST. —VERY SUPERIOR OOLONG TEA S (Black) of 5, 10, and 15 pound Handsome Caddies, at wholesale prices. —FAIRTHORNE & CO., No. 205 N. NINTH and 13th Street. —ELLIS' IRON BITTERS.—"HAVING used your Iron Bitters in my practice, I can testify to its superior tonic properties for invigorating the appetite and promoting digestion. I can also testify to its efficacy in cases of general debility and dyspepsia, and in all cases of nervous debility. It is a very valuable tonic. Its agreeable flavor must recommend it to all. Yours, respectively, DR. S. GARDNER, M. D., Professor of the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery." For sale by JOHNSTON, HOLLOWAY & CO., No. 62 ARCH Street, and by Druggists generally. —NOTICE.—APPLICATION WILL BE made to the Highway Department for a contract to pave Penn street, between Orchard street and Arch street, in the Twenty-third ward. All persons interested will be in attendance on July 19, at 10 o'clock, noon, at the office of the Highway Department, FIFTH Street, below Chestnut, Philadelphia. The following persons have signed a contract for the same:—Wm. G. Lee, Thomas G. Gardner, Jr., John Shaller, John Cocker, Thomas Caster, Joseph Smock, Benjamin Hooper, Jacob Smedley, William Froster, James England, John Roberts, Wilson Minor, William H. Hobson. —IMPORTANT TO BUYERS OF HOSIERY.—Messrs. COOK & BROTHER, Importers of Hosiery, No. 100 N. 2nd Street, have to be the only firm in Philadelphia, keeping all grades of Hosiery at retail, who import their own goods. They feel that by avoiding the profits and commissions imposed by the middlemen, they can save their customers at least 25 per cent. —Second. That they have the quality of their goods under constant control, using the best raw materials and employing the best workmen in their manufacture. —Third. That they have the largest stock of goods in the city, and are enabled to supply the demand for any article of Hosiery, that can be made here of foreign goods. —Fourth. That they have a large stock of goods, which is equal to that of any other firm in the city. —Fifth. That they have a large stock of goods, which is equal to that of any other firm in the city. —Sixth. That they have a large stock of goods, which is equal to that of any other firm in the city. —Seventh. That they have a large stock of goods, which is equal to that of any other firm in the city. —Eighth. That they have a large stock of goods, which is equal to that of any other firm in the city. —Ninth. 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