CHURCHES OF WASHINGTON

The Vermont Avenue Christian One of the Social in the City.

KNOWN AS GARFIELD MEMORIAL

Christ Protestant Episcopal the Oldest Religious Organization in the City—Started Before the War of Independence—President Jefferson Attended Services There.

One of the most social congregations in Washington is that of the Vermont Avenue Christian Church, with its 600 members. Dr. F. D. Power, the pastor, believes in the social feature of religious life, and the members of his congregation shake hands with each other

REV. F. D. POWER.

after each service. It is rarely less than twenty minutes after the benediction has been pronounced before the auditorium is cleared. The church is commonly known as the Garfield Memorial, because President Garfield was a member and regular attendant. But the late President never saw the handsome structure on Vermont avenue. He worshipped in a much smaller and more unpretentious building.

The church was organized in 1842 by Dr. J. T. Barclay, afterwards missionary to Jerusalem. The first meeting was held at his residence, near the navy yard, in December of that year. The original members are all dead except Mrs. Cerucia Moore, who is still an attendant at nearly all the regular services. The little band struggled along under many discouragements until it bought from the M. E. Church, South, in 1869, the chapel located at the corner of M and Ninth streets. This was afterwards moved to Vermont avenue and remained standing until 1882, when the corner-stone of the new church was laid. The only relic of the old chapel, which was a landmark, now in the new building is the pew occupied by President Garfield and his family. It stands to the left of the pulpit and is never used except when the church is very crowded. It bears a plate on which is inscribed the birth and death of the second martyr President.

It was in this pew, as it stood in one of the windows in the old chapel, that Guiteau planned to shoot the President. According to his confession, he had all his arrangements made, but the President was forced to leave the city on the Sunday for the assassination, and Guiteau had to change his plans. Mrs. Garfield afterward gave the church $1,000, and told Dr. Power that he could buy a memorial window with it if he thought best. The entire sum, however, was used for building purposes. The new building was dedicated in 1884 with a debt of $7,000, but this has all been paid. Tradition has it that during the war the chapel, then the property of the M. E. Church South, was decorated with the Stars and Stripes, and the membership thus forced to worship under the flag.

WHAT THEY BELIEVE.

Alexander Campbell, the founder of the Christian church, visited this congregation in 1859, and preached at the house of R. G. Campbell, on Massachusetts avenue, between Fourth and Fifth streets, at the Thirteenth Street Baptist Church, and in the hall of the House of Representatives, June 2. In 1875 the present pastor took charge, coming from Bethany college where he was a professor. Dr. Power was born at Yorktown, Va., and was educated at Bethany college, graduating in 1871. He began preaching at the age of eighteen, and had charge of several churches before he was selected adjunct professor of languages at Bethany. He was chaplain of the Forty-seventh Congress. He is widely known as an orator of no mean note, and has delivered a number of popular lectures. As a pastor he is much beloved by his people and is constant in his work. The morning of each day in the week is devoted to his membership, and he can be found at his study at the church. The remainder of the day is usually given to pastoral visits.

The denomination to which this church belongs is one of the youngest in the country. In 1827 the society known as "Christians," or "Disciples of Christ," was founded by Alexander Campbell, who was born in Ireland,

OLD CHRISTIAN CHAPEL.

but for some years was a Presbyterian minister in Washington county, Pa. Since Mr. Campbell's death the denomination has made wonderful strides, the last census placing its increase at 80 per cent., the largest percentage of any religious body. There are now over 7,000 churches in the denomination, with a membership of nearly 1,000,000. The body believes in the divine inspiration of both the Old and New Testaments, but differs from other denominations on the question of the binding authority. It accepts the Old Testament as true and as essential to a proper understanding of the New. The New Testament alone is its standard of authority, as embodying the teachings of Christ and his apostles. It accepts fully the Scripture statements concerning the trinity, and while agreeing that the Bible furnishes an all-sufficient revelation of the Divine will, and a perfect rule of faith and practice, it repudiates all human authoritative creeds. With the Divinity and Christhood of Jesus is the central truth and no other faith is demanded for baptism and church membership. The denomination celebrates the Lord's supper every Sunday as a part of its regular worship.

Before the nomination of Gen. Garfield to the Presidency plans for a new church were discussed. With his election the movement took shape and gained strength by the co-operation of the general missionary society of the church, which gave authority for funds to be raised from the denomination throughout the country. This was a wise move, for as soon as it was known throughout the country that the denomination was building a church and needed funds money began to pour in. The congregation itself was, and still is, a poor one, but it has paid in about $30,000 for the present structure, and the cornerstone was laid on July 2, 1882, the first anniversary of the shooting of President Garfield. Each anniversary is remembered, and his old pew is on that day beautifully decorated with plants and flowers. The first services were held in the new building in 1884. The auditorium is one of the most comfortable in the city. It measures 64 by 74 feet and has a seating capacity of 650. Doors on each side of the platform open into the Sunday school, measuring 32 by 60 feet. Adjoining this is the pastor's study, and above it, opening upon a balcony that overlooks the lecture room, is the infant class room. In the basement is a fine kitchen, connected with the lecture room by a dumb waiter.

GARFIELD AND BLACK.

Hanging on the wall in the pastor's study are two pictures one would scarcely expect to see together. One is of President Garfield and the other of Judge Jeremiah Black, men who were bitterly opposed to each other politically, but found the same religious home in this church. The two men were warm personal friends, and a visit they paid to President Johnson at one time set the politicians and newspaper men guessing. Their business was to secure a clerkship in one of the departments for the pastor of the church, the congregation being unable to pay him a living salary. The fact that these two gentlemen, so widely different in politics, had called on the President was soon known. Newspaper men called on each of them, and at last Gen. Garfield admitted that there was a conspiracy afoot. "I might as well make a clean breast of this thing, I suppose," he said. "We were engaged in a conspiracy, and a conspiracy to get the ancient Gospel preached in the city of Washington according to the principles of the disciples of Christ." Among the public men who attend this church, though holding their membership in other cities, are the following Congressmen: Hons. Benton McMillin, J. D. Richardson, Thomas W. Phillips, George W. Cooper, Champ Clark, A. J. Hunter and Tom Johnson. Hon. John Allen and family are members of this congregation.

The elders of the church are: Messrs. H. Clay Stier, E. W. Knowles, N. J. Hillman, B. F. Moore, J. F. Saum, J. G. Thompson, and C. L. Reynolds. Mrs. Alice Stier is the organist and Mr. H. L. Shepard the precentor. Mr. Andrew Wilson is the superintendent of the Sunday-school and Mr. C. L. Reynolds the assistant superintendent. Messrs. Benjamin Summy, M. T. Anderson, H. G. Stier, and A. K. Tingle are the trustees. The officers' meetings are held the second Tuesday in each month, and the semi-annual church meetings the second Thursday in April and October. The church is never closed. Services are held Sunday morning and evening and the prayer meeting on Thursday evening. The music is congregational at each of these services. During the past year $4,500 was raised for general church work, $1,200 of which was given to the missionary fund. The church finds a large work among the poor, and from three to four families are always on the pension roll. The congregation was forced last winter to keep several of its members who were out of employment, and is

VERMONT AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

getting ready to help bear other burdens during the coming winter. It also supports a mission in the Southwestern part of the city, of which Mr. W. W. Winfrey is the superintendent. It has just helped start the Third Church at Vienna, Va., and the Second Church, with a membership of 400, is an offshoot.

The ladies of the congregation are great workers and the Ladies' Aid Society stands at the head of all the church work. This society is well known throughout the city through the aprons it makes and sells for the benefit of the poor. Mrs. E. W. Knowles is the president. Mrs. D. W. Whitcomb is the president of the Womens' Foreign Missionary Society. The ladies all believe in temperance and it is said there are more white-ribbon women in this congregation than in any other in the city. A strong Y of the W. C. T. U. is one of the features in the temperance work, which begins with the Band of Hope, formed of the little boys and girls. The young people have a society of Christian Endeavor with sixty active members. The officers are: Ottmer C. Saum, president; Miss Opal Johnson, vice president; De Forest Gray, recording secretary; Miss Susanne Moore, corresponding secretary, and Miss Birdie Perkins, treasurer. The society meets each Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. The leader of the meeting to-night is Miss Mable Peterson. The junior Christian Endeavor Society has a membership of about forty, and Miss Emma Folkes is president.

SOCIAL AND SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORK.

The most striking social feature of the life of the church are the century socials. The membership will be divided this winter into six clubs, of 100 each, called centuries, and a centurian appointed over each. It is the duty of each century to get up an entertainment, entirely within itself, and the other five centuries are invited to attend. Dr. Power finds that this plan works excellently. The members of the church meet each other, and no one is called on twice to provide entertainment.

The Sunday school has a membership of over 200 and is one where no sleepy teachers or scholars are permitted. Every one is wakened up. Mr. Andrew Wilson is just finishing his first year as superintendent and will be unanimously re-elected. He is not thirty years old yet, but has been an earnest church worker all his life. The teachers have just finished a course of talks on Palestine, the meeting being held just before the regular prayer-meeting, Thursday night. The new feature of work is a series of half hour talks on the Bible as a text book by Prof. J. Fraise Richard. To these lectures the public is invited. The other officers of the school are: Assistant superintendents E. G. Siggers, Miss Mary Folk, primary department, and W. H. Schell, adult department; secretary, C. Leslie Reynolds; assistant secretary, J. S. Van Arnsdale; treasurer, Miss Eliza C. Fawcett; chorister, Russell Barnes; pianist, Miss Stella Bridge; librarian, Miss Lou S. Weightman; assistant librarian, Frank Moore.

The teachers are: Messrs. J. G. Thompson, J. Fraise Richard, C. W. Shelton, H. C. Stier, Ass Piper, J. H. Galloway, Robert Balderson, M. A. Ballinger, E. G. Siggers, H. S. Shepard, and Misses Hattie Mowrer, Emma Folk, Emma Tosper, Eliza C. Fawcett, Ella M. Chase, Ines Wilkes, Maud Stahlnaker, Cassell, Mamie Clabaugh, Mary Sparrow, Mary Folk, Belle Brown, Addie Power, and Nettie Piper. Mrs. J. H. Galloway, Mrs. C. W. Shelton, Mrs. H. C. Stier, and Mrs. Whitcomb are also teachers.

CHRIST CHURCH.

The Oldest Religious Organization in the City of Washington.

Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, G street southeast, between Sixth and Seventh streets, is the oldest church in Washington. St. Paul's, of Rock Creek, dates back to 1726 and is the oldest in the District. In a modest frame structure the organization existed on what is now known as New Jersey avenue before the close of the war for independence and before the District of Columbia was thought of. Then it was attached to St. John's parish in Prince George's county, Md., and was known as Christ's Church. During its existence many prominent men worshiped there. President Jefferson rode to the church each Sunday, tied his horse to a tree, and attended services.

The church building had been a tobacco barn and was used by the Episcopalians for thirty years, when it was rented by the Methodists. Dr. McCormick, after whom the McCormick school is named, was rector at one time, and in his day it was used as a school building as well as a church. The Methodists occupied it until 1811, and after this it was used as a carpenter shop. During the war of 1812 the boys of the neighborhood organized themselves into a company and the wooden guns they used were made here. In 1817, while some workmen were boiling glue, it turned down. A drawing of this old building was made by Mr. E. P. Cranch, a son of Chief Justice Cranch, and the cut is taken from one of the photographs since made from the drawing.

Washington parish was organized in 1795 by act of the Legislature of Maryland, but the church on the present site was not used until 1809 and was not dedicated until October 7 of that year. The records show that the petition for the formation of a parish was forwarded in 1794, and that May, 25, 1795, the

CHRIST CHURCH.

following vestry was selected: William Deakins, jr., John Templeman, Charles Worthington, James Simmons, Joseph Clarke, Thomas Johnson, jr., and Gustavus Scott. Henry Edwards was elected registrar, Chatworthy Stevenson and William Prentiss, wardens, and Rev. George Ralph, rector. In 1795 James Greenleaf presented the vestry with a lot east of the Post-office Department, and Samuel Blodgett, who built the Great Hotel on the present site of the Post-office Department, gave an order for the timber to be used. It was to be taken from his plantation—Jamaica farm—extending from Le Droit Park nearly to Twentieth street northwest. The church was not built, however, and in 1806 the vestry accepted the present site, a gift from Mr. William Prout, and service was held for the first time in the new church building August 9, 1807. The vestry at that time consisted of Commodore Tingey, William Prout, John Dempsie, G. Coombs, David Slater, Buller Cocke, Peter Miller, and Henry Ingle.

THE VARIOUS RECTORS.

Rev. Mr. McCormick officiated as rector until 1823, when he was succeeded by Rev. Ethan Allen, who resigned in 1830. In 1825 an addition was built to the church and Mr. Allen built the rectory. The rectors of the church since then have been Rev. Henry Bean, Rev. W. Hodges, Rev. Joshua Morsell, Rev. Mark Olds, with Rev. W. A. Harris as assistant; Rev. C. H. Shield, with Rev. A. F. Steele as assistant; Rev. William McGuire, Rev. C. D. Andrews, and Rev. Gilbert F. Williams. Archdeacon Gilbert F. Williams has been rector of the parish since 1887, and is one of the hardest working pastors in the city. He finds his hands full all the time but is never too busy to answer any call made on him.

In 1849 and 1850 a new front was put in the church, and in 1854 a belfry was added. A few years ago it was remodeled. The front is in imitation of stone and the tower was raised sixteen feet. The interior was handsomely frescoed. The chancel windows were removed and above is now a half dome. In the ceiling is the symbol Agnus Dei and in the main body the frieze is ornamented with the symbol of the communion—the vine and the grapes. While the congregation is the oldest, the church is one of the most modern in the city. It is a very different edifice from that to which the marine music boys marched during the time Gen. Archibald Henderson commanded the Marine Corps.

The present boundary of the parish, which once included Washington, is that portion of the city bounded by South Capitol street, North Carolina avenue, Sixth street, East Capitol street, and the Eastern Branch. The vestry is composed of E. N. Waters, S. J. McCathran, O. B. Hallam, Joseph H. Gibbons, Henry Speiser, J. S. Denham, Louis R. Taylor, and Dr. A. D. Cobey. The wardens are J. R. Sipe and Mr. McKenney. O. B. Hallam is registrar. There are 500 communicants, and a mission is supported at Half and M streets southeast, and Rev. John M. E. McKee is in charge. The Sunday-school at the mission is 100 strong, and Mr. Joseph H. Gibbons is superintendent. This mission church was built and is supported by the Christ Church congregation. Services are held in Christ Church Sunday morning and evening. The weekly meeting is held Wednesday evening; litany, Friday, and meetings are also held on all special days mentioned in the Book of Common Prayer.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH.

The Sunday-school is 400 strong and one of the most interesting in the city. The rector, Mr. Williams, is superintendent. The teachers are: Mrs. G. F. Williams, in charge of the ladies' Bible class; Misses Edith Roberts, May McCauley, Annie Hartley, Grace Miller, Fiade Baden, Hattie Tremoly, Bertha Kahlert, Nettie Denham, Roberta Van Horn, Jennie Goss, B. Matthews, Bessie Roberts, Kate Rowland, Jennie Sparks, Emma Bright, and Mary Ambau, and Messrs. James Berry, L. B. Taylor, Armstead, Edmund Varella, O. B. Hallam, and Tavender. Mrs. Williams on Monday evenings also teaches a special Bible class of forty-five young ladies.

The work of the lady members of the church is one of the features of this parish. There is

FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP IN WASHINGTON.

a chapter of the Daughters of the King sixty-seven strong. The members assist in Sunday-school work, keep the vessels of the church in order, attend to the vestments of the clergy, visit the sick and poor, and distribute provisions. They are kept busy, but the work is well done. Mrs. Williams is warden and Miss Helen B. Wickersham financial secretary of the chapter. The Dorcas Society has a membership of twenty-five, and is kept busy making garments and selling them for the relief of the poor. The members also do a great deal of visiting among the poor, distributing clothing, and yearly send missionary boxes to the Indian schools. Last year the society made between $200 and $300 selling garments. Mrs. John Graves is warden and Miss Helen B. Wickersham secretary of this society.

The music is one of the features in the service in this church. Mr. James Smith, the well-known tenor, is precentor of the chorus choir. The sopranos are Miss Bertha Kahlert, Miss Jennie Goss, and Miss Nettie Denham. Miss Laura Kahlert and Miss Fannie Beasley are the altos. The bassos are Messrs. Gibbons and Taylor. Mr. J. Fulton Richards is the organist.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is a dozen strong, and does much good work visiting the sick and poor. Mr. O. B. Hallam is the warden, and Mr. Edmund Varella the secretary and treasurer.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

The Work Which is Being Done By Junior Church Members.

The young people of the various churches are preparing for a vigorous winter campaign. The Christian Endeavor Society, the Epworth League, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and the Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip all have interesting programmes prepared.

The new officers of the Christian Endeavor Union for the District of Columbia have just taken charge and have made some changes in the manner of doing their work. Hereafter the headquarters of the District organization will be in the Y. M. C. A. building, on New York avenue. All mail will be received and the meetings of all committees held there. The executive committee will hereafter meet on the Monday evening preceding the third Friday of each month.

The new committees to be appointed are on music, temperance, and good citizenship. Music is to be made a greater feature in the future, and the intention is to take some concerted action on temperance. The good citizenship committee is a new departure, and while there is no special need for such work in the District, the Endeavorers intend to add their moral support, at least, to the purifying of politics. The membership of these committees will be announced by President Connor at the meeting of the executive committee to-morrow night.

The September mass-meeting will be held Friday evening in Luther Place Memorial Church. W. H. Wallace, the ex-president of the Philadelphia union, will be the principal speaker. He is credited with knowing a great deal about endeavor work. His subject will be "The opportunities and responsibilities of the District of Columbia union." The necessity of a union lookout and union missionary work will be discussed by two members of the local union. In the future the mass meetings are to be held each alternate month in one of the large central churches, and the other month in churches in different sections of the city. The October meeting will be held in Dr. Easton's church, on Capitol Hill, the topic for discussion being "The relation of the Christian Endeavor Society to the Sunday-school." This meeting is preparatory to the Sunday-school convention to be held shortly afterwards. Plans for the annual meeting in January are being prepared and it is the intention to enlarge the Endeavorer to eight pages.

The Epworth League is preparing for the busiest kind of a winter. The mass-meeting Friday night at Trinity Church was a great success. The most interesting feature of new work talked about now is the formation of a league congress, modeled after the Federal Congress. Each chapter is to be entitled to two senators, and representatives are to be proportioned among the chapters according to membership. All public questions will be discussed and must come before each house after the usual parliamentary course. The young people, who are pushing the movement, are enthusiastic. The chapters are preparing for the usual league oratorical contest, and it promises to be more interesting this year than ever before. Last year it was a great success. The delegates to the annual meeting to be held in October are being chosen. At this convention officers for the ensuing year will be elected. The matter of starting reading circles again is being discussed, and Foundry Chapter will lead off in this line in a few weeks.

The Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip holds its regular prayer-meeting now each Wednesday evening in the Y. M. C. A. building. Mr. Andrew Wilson, of the Garfield Memorial Church, led the last meeting. There are four chapters of this organization in the city now and each is doing a good work.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is having its hands full preparing for the convention to be held here in October. Arrangements have all been completed and the visiting delegates will bear away kind remembrances of the Washington brotherhood.

At the Y. M. C. A. Rev. J. H. McCarty, of New York, will address the gospel meeting this evening. The subject for Tuesday evening's meeting is "Actions speak louder than words." Last Sunday night Secretary Pugh filled the pulpit of the Eastern Presbyterian Church, presenting the work done by the association. Dr. Easton, pastor of that church, is anxious that his members take a deeper interest in the work.

Notes from the Churches.

The ministers who have been spending their vacation out of the city have all returned and the pulpits generally are filled by the pastors themselves. Some churches are already preparing for revival services.

Gen. Smith, pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, spent the greater part of the week in Pittsburg, attending the G. A. R. encampment. The prayer-meeting Thursday night was led by George K. Warren, a student at the Louisville Theological Seminary. To-day the pulpit is filled by Rev. W. P. Hines, of Richmond. If possible Gen. Smith will have services each night during the week. Clerk McLean is away, having gone to Ocean City.

Dr. Parson, of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, exchanges pulpits to-day with Dr. M. E. McLinn, of Lovettsville, Va.

The congregation of the Eastern Presbyterian Church gave a reception to their pastor, Dr. Easton and wife, on their return from their vacation spent at Mountain Lake Park. Dr. Easton was presented with a purse and a handsome sum of money.

The Home Coming Social for the Sunday-school of the Vermont Avenue Christian Church will be held Friday evening. It is under the auspices of the G. P. S. C. E.

The Eastern conference of the Maryland synod of Lutheran churches meets at Luther Place Memorial Church Sept. 17.

The first meeting of the Methodist Union since the vacation is held tomorrow.

SPLIT ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The Rock on Which a Washington Utopia Went to Pieces.

Civil war is raging in Utopia. The Washington co-operative colony, which left Spokane last spring and went down into Kickitat County to teach the wicked, wasteful world a lesson in improved social economy, was only made up of common mortals after all, each with a great deal of human nature to the cubic inch. And they know it now.

The brief accounts in letters to Spokane have plenty of force, but lack details of just how the trouble started. Only one thing is sure—woman suffrage did it. From the very first there were one or two members of the colony who objected to mixing experiments and insisted that the colony's business affairs should be trusted to the practiced hands of men. But the majority overruled them. Mrs. Jewett and Mrs. Hunsecker were chosen for two of the directors. Another lady was chosen secretary. Several were admitted as full members of the colony.

But for two or three months there have been murmurs of discontent. It was hinted by the dissatisfied that women didn't know much about business anyway. The work of the lady secretary was criticised. The votes of the lady directors were freely discussed. And soon some one discovered that when Mr. and Mrs. Hunsecker voted with Mr. and Mrs. Jewett they had a majority of the board of seven directors and could do what they chose.

About ten days ago the crisis came. The majority of the society wanted one plan of work adopted and the majority of the board favored another. The Hunseckers and Jewetts voted together and their plan was adopted. That settled it. Ten families seceded from the colony and began packing their earthly possessions ready to emigrate. Seven members, five of them officers, remained loyal. There are Mr. and Mrs. Jewett, Mr. and Mrs. Hunsecker, Mr. and Mrs. Howell, and the lady secretary.

The split cannot be mended. A division of property has been effected, and the seceders are now looking for a new home. Their plan is to go a few miles down the valley, take up some wild land, and form a new colony, with improved by-laws, into which, it is said, no idea of woman suffrage will be allowed to creep. There may be some trouble over the homestead laws, which recognize only individual settlers, who are under no obligations to share their land with anybody. But the seceders hope to fix that.

Whether the seven faithful members of the old colony will stay together on the farm at the mouth of the White Salmon remains to be seen. The chances are that they will for a while, at any rate.

Last Excursion of the Season to Niagara Falls.

The last excursion of the season to Niagara Falls, Watkins Glen, and Geneva, via B. & O. R. R., is announced for Thursday, September 20. Royal Blue line express, with through pullman sleeping cars attached, will leave Washington 5:35 p. m., running via the Lehigh and Wyoming Valleys. Pullman car space reserved in advance at B. & O. ticket office, corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Fourteenth street. Round trip tickets, allowing stop-over on outward journey at Burdette and Geneva, and on the return trip at Rochester, Burdette, and Geneva, $10, good for return passage ten days, including day of sale. Stage coaches meet all trains at Burdette station, three miles from Watkins Glen. se14,16

AMONG SECRET SOCIETIES

Some Matters of Interest to Brothers Who Meet on the Quiet.

THE DISTRICT GOOD TEMPLARS

The Semi-centennial of Beacon Lodge, I. O. O. F., a Pleasant Affair—Gossip About the Next Meeting Place of the Sovereign Grand Lodge—Golden Cross Notes.

The Independent Order of Good Templars is among the oldest and best known temperance body in the District. It was first established here by the institution of Minnehaha Lodge in November, 1865. Its organization includes the Juvenile Temple, the Subordinate Lodge, and the grand lodge. The next and highest division is known as the "International Supreme Lodge," composed of delegates from the grand lodges throughout the world. In this district there are at present three temples and fifteen subordinate lodges. The grand lodge officers are now making their official visitations for the year, having already met with Minnehaha, Morning Star, Perseverance, Washington, and Langdon lodges. The officers present at most of these visitations have been Grand Templar A. N. Canfield, of Minnehaha; Grand Secretary Jesse Suter, Columbia; Grand Counselor A. T. Mempin, of Morning Star; Grand Chaplain Blackford, Grand Treasurer Harner, and Grand Marshal Wilson, of Independent Lodge. Grand Vice Templar Mrs. L. Bushby and Grand Deputy Marshal Mrs. Emma Bergmann, of Friendship, are still at their summer cottage in Washington Grove.

The several subordidate lodges meet weekly. Minnehaha's meeting in Society Temple Tuesday evening was largely attended. One candidate was initiated, Chief Templar Hauxhurst presiding. Literary and musical exercises, entertaining and instructive, were had. A special feature was a farewell benefit to Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Rowley and son Walter, who left the city Thursday evening for their home in Pen Yan, New York. Refreshments were liberally served.

The sovereign council of the Sons of Jonadab was in session in the city during the past week. The most important business transacted was several amendments to the constitution, making the qualification for membership more severe. The amendments also exclude from membership any person connected with the sale or manufacture of liquor, such as the drivers of beer and liquor wagons and mechanics or helpers employed in breweries and distilleries.

AMONG THE ODD FELLOWS.

Efforts to Have the Sovereign Grand Meet in This City.

Accotink Lodge, No. 75, which was recently instituted by Grand Representative D. R. Stansbury and Special Deputy Grand Master George B. Jones, at Alexandria, Va., has thirty-five charter members.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge, which is the supreme head of the order, will convene in annual session to-morrow on the top of Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Tenn. The session will last about a week and many important matters will come before it. Quite a delegation from Canada, the New England States, and New Jersey came through this city on Thursday evening, en route to Chattanooga, over the Southern Railway. They were to stop over at Asheville, N. C., to witness a demonstration of the order, and after reaching Chattanooga the programme was to take an excursion down the Mississippi River yesterday. A large delegation went over the Norfolk and Western road last evening, among them being Grand Representatives Allen, of the District of Columbia, and Stansbury, of Virginia. Grand Representative Blanks, of Virginia, and Grand Representative George P. Davis left last evening. Grand Representative Stier left yesterday morning.

Mount Pleasant Lodge, No. 23, worked the first degree on Wednesday evening.

Monday evening Beacon Lodge, No. 15, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in the auditorium of the Seventh street I. O. O. F. hall. An interesting musical and literary programme (which was fully reported in THE TIMES the day following) was rendered to the delight of a large and interested audience. The addresses were as follows: "Past," Charles B. E. Colledge, past grand master; "Present," F. A. Stier, grand representative, and "Future," Brother Edwin B. Hay. The address of Brother Colledge was principally of an historical character, of which the following is an extract: "Beacon Lodge, No. 15, I. O. O. F., was chartered September 9, 1844, with nine members, as follows: Cranston Laurie, James Owner, jr., John T. Downs, J. W. Colley, W. L. Dixon, William Wall, John Waters, T. A. Stevens, and William Moore. Of these two charter members, J. W. Colley and William Wall, are still living and are active members of the lodge. Neither of them in appearance are over forty years of age. At the date of charter of the lodge John Sessford, jr., was grand master and Charles Calvert grand secretary. A grandson of Grand Secretary Calvert is now a member of Beacon Lodge. At the meeting of the charter members, held at the store of Brother John Waters, the following officers were elected: J. W. Colley, noble grand; John T. Downs, vice grand, and William Wall, secretary. The first appointed officers were as follows: William Moore, warden; Cranston Laurie, conductor; John Waters, guardian; W. L. Dixon, R. S. to N. G.; James Owner, L. S. to N. G., and F. A. Stevens, R. S. to V. G. Brother James B. Clark, past grand, who was afterward elected the first treasurer of the lodge, and Brothers Charles T. Smith and Thomas Scrivener were admitted to membership on withdrawal cards, and petitions for membership of T. W. Johnson, T. A. Provest, J. M. Black, and R. H. Waters were among the first applications received. It will thus be seen that the lodge closed its first regular session with only twelve members and four additional in prospect. The terms of officers in those days were quarterly. The seal of the lodge, "The Beacon Light at Sea," was the design of Brother Cranston Laurie, who was a clerk in the Post-office Department and said to have been the most beautiful penman in the service of the government. At the second meeting five members were admitted, bringing the membership to seventeen. The average membership during half a century has been eighty-five. The minutes for the first three years do not give sufficient statistical information, but during the last forty-seven years there has been paid to 521 brothers for sick benefits the amount of $14,362.10. This, however, does not include sums paid for burying the dead, educating the orphans, relief of widows, which has always been liberal in this lodge, no worthy application having been turned away, etc."

The Sovereign Grand Lodge, which will be in session this week at Chattanooga, will be asked to hold its meeting next year in this city. The representatives from this jurisdiction will convey the invitation extended by the grand lodge and grand encampment and will also present an invitation from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia requesting that body to meet here at that time. The only session held in the District of Columbia was that of an adjourned meeting from Baltimore in 1834, sixty years ago.

Past Grand Patriarch John H. Seiffert is enjoying a summer outing among the cooling breezes of the great lakes.

The Special Deputy Grand Master George B. Jones, of Virginia, has sent to this office the September number of the Virginia Odd Fellow. It is a bright and ably edited monthly paper, published by Past Grand Master Thomas N. Kendler, and should be a valuable medium in diffusing the principles of the order.

Federal City Lodge, No. 20, conferred the first degree last Wednesday evening and will work the second at its next meeting.

Naomi (Rebekah Degree) Lodge meets tomorrow night. Work at every meeting.

Representative T. P. Bixey, of Missouri, formerly of Virginia, and brother of a deceased member of Union Lodge, No. 11, is being pushed by his State for the position of deputy grand sire. Representative Bixey visited Union Lodge a few months since and delivered an eloquent address upon the principles of Odd Fellowship.

Twenty-two members of one of the local lodges (No. 20) were affected by the recent cyclone at the G. P. O.

Idaho has forty-four lodges and fifteen I. O. O. F. cemeteries.

Ex-Secretary Kirkwood, who died in Iowa on September 1, was a P. G. of the I. O. O. F.

Chicago has 102 subordinate lodges.

Union Lodge conferred the degrees of friendship and brotherly love last Monday evening, and will work the degree of truth tomorrow evening.

Magenenu Encampment, No. 4, will hold its regular meeting next Friday evening, at which the encampment work will be exemplified.

A silver cup, to be known as the "Chickamauga cup," will be awarded to the department commander whose department has the largest number of chevaliers on parade at Chattanooga on September 18. Tennessee is excluded from the contest.

Grand Master Theodore Mead and Grand Marshal John I. Brown were visitors at Takoma Lodge last Wednesday night.

Brother Jerome Benton Stahl, whose residence is No. 1352 C street southwest, has been elected and installed into the office of noble grand of Union Lodge, No. 11, to fill a vacancy caused by resignation.

A pertinent suggestion has been made that the Sovereign Grand Lodge make no legislation for at least ten years.

There is too much truth in the following item, from the Virginia Odd Fellow: "Nearly every lodge has half a dozen standing candidates for the chair of noble grand. They pop up like 'the flowers that bloom in the spring,' and just as soon as they become past grands they pass away. As the grass withereth, so the ambition of the past grand."

A resolution was unanimously adopted at the last meeting of Columbia Lodge, No. 10, thanking the general committee having in charge the recent celebration of the order for the success of the affair.

Mechanics' Lodge, No. 18, had work at their last meeting.

Past Grand John R. Smith, of Boston Lodge, No. 25, of Boston, Mass., visited Columbia Lodge on his return from the G. A. R. encampment, and gave the members an interesting talk.

GOLDEN CROSS.

A Special Meeting of the Grand Commandery Called for This Week.

Grand Commander Perry has issued a call for a special meeting of the Grand Commandery Thursday evening, September 27, at National Commandery Hall, No. 623 Louisiana avenue.

The committee on the good of the order of St. John's Commandery—William E. Graham, Miss Gertrude B. Bartlett, and Mrs. Emma McKim—are making arrangements for a musical entertainment to be given at an early date.

At the next meeting of Mount Vernon Commandery, on Monday evening, the degrees will be conferred on two candidates.

Anacostia Commandery, at its meeting on Wednesday evening, will confer the degrees on four candidates.

Mrs. Marilla R. Simonds, of Brighton Commandery, No. 183, of Allston, Mass., visited Halcyon Commandery at its last meeting, and spoke briefly on the social and fraternal features of the order.

On Friday evening next, Potomac Commandery will confer the degrees on one candidate. Noble Commander Slater is laboring earnestly to increase the membership and improve the ritualistic work in his commandery.

Capital Commandery has changed its meetings to the second and fourth Fridays of each month, commencing on September 28. The ladies of the commandery promise an interesting programme under the good of the order at the next meeting.

At the last meeting of Goodwill Commandery, Dr. Groot reported a resolution to carry into effect a by-law of the commandery in relation to the payment of assessments. Knight John W. Musson was elected and installed as warder of the outer gate.

Mrs. Mary I. Simonds, vice grand commander, visited Goodwill and Anacostia Commanderies last week.

National Commandery on Monday evening conferred the degrees on three candidates, the initiating officers performing that ceremony entirely without the use of books, and in an exceedingly impressive manner. The stations were occupied by Mrs. Belle M. Carter, noble commander; Mrs. Annie L. Allen, vice noble commander; Clarence I. Gessford, worthy prelate; past noble commander, Richard H. Yates; worthy herald, J. Bright Handy; warder inner gate, John W. Speake. A large group photograph of the present officers, good of the order, and hall committees is prominently displayed in the citadel. At the next meeting, on September 24, the degrees will be conferred on five candidates.

Miss Marguerite McCutchin, supreme warder of the outer gate, and Mrs. Martha J. Peabody, of Capital Commandery, have returned from their summer visit through New England. They will at once engage in active commandery work.

Past Grand Commander Groot visited Trinity Commandery on Tuesday evening last, and spoke of the importance of the coming session of the grand commandery, and the fall visitations, as far as they relate to an improvement in the ritualistic work of the order.

At the last meeting of Columbia Commandery Fayette M. Sinclair resigned the office of noble commander, and E. Q. Gunson was elected and installed. George W. F. Streiby resigned the office of financial keeper of records, and William E. Cole was elected and installed. The committee on the good of the order have commenced the publication of a commandery journal, called The Columbia, and each number will be read under the good of the order by the editor, who will be appointed at each meeting. At the next meeting on September 25 degrees will be conferred by separate teams for each degree; the first by ladies, the second by knights, and the third by the regular officers.

Knight Fayette Sinclair, of Columbia Commandery, will remove shortly to Hampton, Va., and engage in business there.

Mrs. Belle M. Carter, noble commander of National Commandery, bears the proud distinction of being the only lady presiding officer in the jurisdiction. Motions, resolutions, points of order, and previous questions fly all around her, but she never gets "rattled." When the gavel comes down she means it.

Knight M. L. Venable, of Mount Vernon Commandery, will give his humorous speech on a "High Old Time" at Anacostia Commandery on next Wednesday evening.

At Meridian Commandery on Friday evening Noble Commander W. L. Wilkerson presided, Deputy Grand Commander Oscar T. Towner installed Mrs. Sarah E. Maddux as warder of the inner gate. Samuel W. Maddux, sr., and Mrs. Mary A. Keck were appointed a committee to secure a larger attendance at the meetings of the commandery.

SHRINERS PLAY BALL.

They Go to Philadelphia in Large Numbers—Masonic News.

The Shriners played their return game of ball at Philadelphia yesterday. The party that went over was a hundred strong, and quite a number of ladies accompanied it. The team of the Shrine was composed of the following players: Richard D. Jones, c.; Thomas A. Chandler, a. s.; William S. Hughes, 2b.; Charles M. Shrier, 1b.; Charles Child, l. f.; T. W. Denny, 3b.; Frank H. Barbarian, c. f.; Fred G. Dietrich, r. f., and S. P. House or Charles Faulkner, p. This team of Alma Temple has played nearly everything in the District, and in most cases come out ahead.

William Oscar Boome, thirty-third degree, secretary of the provincial grand lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland, is in Boston to attend the annual meeting of that body. He was accompanied by George E. Corson, Aaron Baldwin, John H. Olcott, and Andrew Wall.

Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, conferred the second degree Monday night.

The mark master's degree was worked Friday night by Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 7, Hiram Chapter, No. 10, conferred the same degree Monday night.

The second degree was worked in New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, Thursday evening and in St. John's Lodge, No. 11, Friday evening. St. John's Lodge also buried during the week one of its charter members, William Cammack. The Masonic pall-bearers were Past Masters Thomas Foster, Frank J. Foster, William H. Douglass, and Master Mason Joseph Angus.

Brightwood Chapter, No. 9, will confer the royal arch degree Wednesday evening.

Col. N. H. Holt, thirty-second degree, will be home this week from a lengthy Western trip.

Notes from Lodges.

Oriental Council, No. 312, Royal Arcanum, held an interesting meeting Monday night. A balance was reported in the Treasury