

CHURCH AND PARISH REGISTER.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—This department of the paper is commended to the attention of our pastors and churches, and friends are requested to bear in mind that its value is largely dependent on their fidelity in furnishing the material. We invoke their co-operation to this end. Send on the news.

NOTICES AND APPOINTMENTS.—Notices and appointments are published on the Eighth Page. In order to secure prompt insertion they should be forwarded so as to reach the office on the Monday previous to the date of publication.

CHICAGO.—Memorial Services for the late James H. Swan were held at St. Paul's on Sunday morning in the presence of a large congregation. The introductory exercises were conducted by the pastor, Dr. Canfield, and after the choir had rendered one of Mr. Swan's favorite selections and the congregation had joined in singing a hymn, Dr. Canfield spoke of Mr. Swan as the pastor's friend and his intimate personal relations to the church.

"He was a churchman," he said, "whose ambition seemed to be to see how much he could put into the church—not how much he could get out of it. I do not remember more than two or three Sundays in the last five years when he was in the city that he was absent from church."

Mr. Noble B. Judah followed in an address relating to Mr. Swan's interest and helpfulness in the business concerns of the church. In the period when St. Paul's was struggling under the heavy debt caused by the great fire, Mr. Swan was described as a pillar of strength always hopeful and loyal. He was also helpful in all business emergencies.

Dr. Cantwell spoke next and briefly recalled Mr. Swan's services in the Board of Trustees of the General Convention and for thirteen years as President of the Illinois Universalist Convention. He was in all respects a consecrated layman. The great need of our church is men of Mr. Swan's type, believers in the faith and interested in the denominational work and progress of the church.

Mr. J. E. Desebaugh, the editor of "The Timberman," was the fourth and last speaker. He paid a noble tribute to Mr. Swan from the standpoint of his business associates. The eulogy was a noble one and well deserved.

St. Paul's tribute to Mr. Swan was an unusually interesting and significant series of eulogies. "The memory of the just is blessed."

Englewood.—The Christmas season has been pleasantly observed by the Sunday-school. A Cantata was given Friday evening by members of the school for the entertainment of the scholars and their friends, and this was followed by a social made festive by Christmas candles.

ILLINOIS.—Waukegan.—The Ladies' of Waukegan, Ill., gave the "New Festival of Days," in the lecture-room of the church, Thursday, December 12. It was a success socially and financially. Booths representing the days of the week were appropriately and beautifully decorated and articles suited to the days were sold from each booth. Saturday's booth furnished the supper. The ladies worked faithfully and well and deserve great credit. The church work is progressing steadily and surely under the leadership of Rev. A. K. Beem, the pastor, despite all discouragements of roads and bad weather.

OUR MICHIGAN LETTER.

BATTLE CREEK.

A very interesting meeting occurred in this enterprising city, Dec. 11 and 12. It began with the installing services of the new pastor of the Independent Congregationalist Church, Rev. Thomas J. Horner. Some 12 years ago this was a rigid Presbyterian church, and its pastor, Rev. Reed Stuart, now pastor of the Unitarian church in Detroit, became out of harmony with its theology and broke away from the faith of his fathers and assumed an Independent position. The people who formed the working force of the church had grown unevangelical along with him, and when he withdrew from that presbytery the people went with him, and the independent church was established. During these many years it has held a thoroughly independent position, though practically sympathizing with the liberal denominations. The new pastor is the third since the independency of the society and his induction into office was with exceedingly interesting services. The sermon was preached by Rev. Chas. G. Ames, of Boston, successor of James Freeman Clarke, as pastor of the Church of the Disciples. Other speakers were Rev. B. R. Bulkeley, of Unity Church, Chicago, Rev. Caroline J. Bartlett, of the People's Church, Kalamazoo, and Prof. H. King, of Olivet College.

On Thursday a general meeting of the pastors of the so-called non-evangelical churches of the State was held. This was really the regular session of the Unitarian Conference of the State, but as this had little business to attend to, the meeting took the form of a general discussion of plans of work for all liberal churches. Some of the discussions were significant. The Unitarian pastors expressed a feeling of disappointment in their work in this State. One said: "Our congregation is practically dead. We are working separately and disjointedly." Another said: "Our situation is deplorable; we have not so many churches as a few years ago." The discussion took the form of an appeal for a new organization which should unite in one body all who now work under the name of Universalist, Unitarian and Independent. While sympathizing with the purpose of this appeal for a better organization of forces, the pastors of the Universalist churches dissented from the form in which the appeal was put. They said while the situation of Universalism in this State is not all that could be desired, it is steadily improving, and the security of its present position is due to

The West.

WISCONSIN.—La Crosse.—The first vesper service was held under the direction of the pastor, Sunday, December 22. It was possibly the most delightful service we have held. The church was full, almost crowded. We expect to repeat the service and the congregation many times. Christmas was fully recognized by appropriate services. The pastor furnished the following Christmas thoughts to the symposium of the city pastors.

The Message From the Sky.

There is "peace on earth and good will to men" in answer to a message from the sky. Since that message came, men are caught up into a third heaven of love, and scatter smiles and cheer, as the sun dispurses its beams. The love of Christ is constraining men to be more than just. Had Jesus been simply just to the world as the business man, giving measure for measure, value for value, we might not have known the joy of his divine life which he gave in sacrifice because no one at the time might set an adequate estimate upon it and reward him justly for it. The world received a mighty impulse of progress when that life moved upon it, and the impulse gathers force ever among men. Blessings widen as streams toward an ocean. Joys pervade an atmosphere that envelops the last man in company with his kind. Christmas cheer, Christmas giving, Christmas cheer, flower out in mid-winter on the divine plant which the Heavenly Father has rooted in the earth, bearing the evidence of the abiding life at its heart and of its growth and development through the years, until the world shall be filled with its beauty and sweetness.

MISSOURI.—Kansas City.—The entertainment and bazaar given by the ladies of this church terminated December 20, after three of the stormiest and most disagreeable days this winter. The fair opened Wednesday with a violent rain-storm accompaniment, which on Thursday turned to snow, continuing on Friday with various kinds of disagreeable weather.

While the state of the weather prevented the fair from being the financial success it otherwise would have been, the arrangement and decoration of the booths, the quantity and beauty of the articles offered for sale, the artistic entertainment provided each evening, called forth high praise from the daily papers, which pronounced it one of the prettiest among twenty or more fairs given here this month.

The Society feels very grateful to the many individuals and churches who contributed money and articles for sale, and thus in a very generous way expressed an interest in what is being done here.

KANSAS.—Haven.—The church work is progressing nicely at Haven, under the pastorate of Rev. Miss Brant. The Ladies' Society of Christian Workers conducted a successful fair December 19-21, clearing about \$50.

Rev. Miss Brant received fifteen members into the church, Sunday, December 22.

This was at the conclusion of a four weeks meeting at the M. E. church in which the Salvation army was called in for help. This makes our membership 73.

Rev. Geo. N. Falconer, of the Hutchinson church, is to devote half of the time to Haven for the next year. The Hutchinson and Haven churches are enjoying much prosperity. May the good work continue. There are scores in both these communities who have heard the partialist doctrines presented very persistently and are interested in the more reasonable teachings of the Universalist Church. Rev. Mr. Falconer and Miss Brant are not disposed to let these drift away or live without the Good News.

NEBRASKA.—Lincoln.—The Courier, of Lincoln, in its issue for Dec. 21, pays this merited compliment to Rev. Eben. H. Chapin, pastor of the Universalist church:

"There is a minister in this city who has the courage and the manliness to get up in his pulpit and look his congregation in the face and tell the truth. There is a preacher who is willing to discuss living, vital subjects fearlessly and forcibly. There is a preacher here who gives voice freely to the feeling which every right-minded man who considers the social problems presented in the city of Lincoln, must have. This preacher is the Rev. E. H. Chapin, of the Universalist church. Mr. Chapin cannot be accused of sensationalism. He is outspoken, but he is sensible and conservative. Last Sunday morning Mr. Chapin preached a sermon from Matt. xxi. 13. 'It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.'"

Mr. Chapin discussed local topics. He said: "There never comes a time when man, whatever his occupation or station in life may be, is not in need of an exalted moral ideal. Whether he be a minister, or a lawyer or a member of the city council, or a police officer, he must have a disinterested purpose in that which is trying to work out or else he will miserably fail in his service to humanity. The question which we should seriously set ourselves to answer now is whether the city of Lincoln has any such ideal; such purpose. Are those who have charge of its affairs men who are in any way distinguished for purity and nobility of their views and the singular virtue of their actions in private and in public life? Are they men who have the ability to realize the nature of the blessings which must undoubtedly accrue to the city through years of steady and loyal adherence to principle and love of justice, sobriety and orderliness? In a word are they men who rule for the people; for their eternal peace, prosperity, and well-being? If they are not such, if they are not devout, sincere, courageous and

wise in the deepest and broadest sense of these terms, then the city is falling short of its true end; and most necessarily fall of that greater glory which it might otherwise attain."

Our church affairs are moving along quite satisfactorily in Lincoln taking into consideration the financial situation. The friends of the parish have just shown them appreciation by presenting Mr. and Mrs. Chapin with a pair of fine oak chairs as holiday gifts.

OHIO NEWS LETTER.

EATON.

Our church at Eaton has employed Rev. O. P. Moorman as successor to Rev. B. G. Carpenter, who will enter Ryder Divinity school, at once. Bro. Carpenter has arranged also to supply the church at Avon, Ill. Bro. Moorman has moved to Eaton, and will preach there two Sundays each month, and will continue to preach once a month at New Paris.

CLEVELAND.

Rev. Carl F. Henry, pastor of our church in Cleveland, delivered a sermon December 15, on "Worldly Ways," which was published in several daily papers, and created quite a sensation in that city. The Cleveland Leader heads its report as follows: "Worldly Ways; a minister declares the church has fallen into them. Position and riches are put before principle and righteousness." We regret that we have not room for the entire report, but quote the closing paragraph which shows that our cause in Cleveland is represented by a man who is not afraid to utter his convictions in regard to evils, though cloaked in garments of assumed righteousness: "The church has fallen into the worldly way of putting position before principle; riches before righteousness. Conforming to a public sentiment, which she is fearful not to conform to, the church, like the rest of the world has dropped into the procession and is following the crowd toward the altar of Mammon and away from God. It cannot serve them both." The fair held by the ladies of All Souls' Church, December 11, was a decided success, notwithstanding very stormy weather reduced attendance. The net proceeds were over one hundred dollars. The Y. P. C. U. has a fine concert under way, and the Alliance is always at work. The Rosemary club served a Christmas supper to the Sunday school, December 27. The Sunday-school was to be re-organized December 29, and the Pullman lesson leaves were adopted. New members to the church are in prospect.

"JAMES CARLTON" AT WORK AGAIN.

The fraud, who represents himself as the nephew of some preachers, and son of others; also as a theological student, who is selling Universalist books "to pay his way," is at his work again. He recently visited Kent, where he represented himself as nephew of Rev. S. P. Carlton, and presented a letter of endorsement said to be written by Rev. J. F. Rice. Being short of funds he wanted to borrow a little money to take him to his home in Clyde, and succeeded in "borrowing" some which as usual he failed to return. He has been published several times, but continues his nefarious work. He does not confine his bold thefts to Universalists alone. We again state that the Universalist Publishing House has only one agent, Bro. Thomas I. Moore. Let all readers of "The Universalist" be careful in "making loans" to strangers, even if they do seem to be well acquainted with many Universalist preachers. We hope yet to hear of the arrest of this rascal for forgery, etc.

MRS. M. A. UNDERWOOD.

This venerable member of our church at Kent, died from paralysis, December 5. Had she lived until December 20, she would have reached the four-score milestone in the journey of life. She joined the loved ones who had gone before, on the sixty-fifth anniversary of her wedding day. She and her husband, Freeman Underwood, were both pioneers coming with their parents from Eastern States in childhood when that part of Ohio was a wilderness. Both were members of the Universalist Church for many years, and were subscribers to our denominational papers, "The Glad Tidings," "Star in the West," "UNIVERSALIST," and "Convention Circular." From personal experience we can testify to her kindness of heart, and her fidelity to her friends, and her devotion to the church. Her daughters, Mrs. Mary J. Underwood and Mrs. Alice Foote, will walk in her footsteps as supporters of the faith, which she so dearly loved. The Missionary Alliance of Kent, at its meeting on December 18, adopted resolutions of love and respect to the memory of one who had been faithful in all relations of life.

KENT.

A correspondent at Kent reports that "Festival of Days" sale was a success despite discouraging circumstances, which occurred at the time. The congregations at public services have increased under the ministrations of Rev. H. K. Riegel, whose services are grand and inspiring. The pastor and wife expected to spend the holidays with friends in the East. Dr. A. M. Sherman and wife are spending the winter in Pasadena, California. The doctor's presence at church is much missed, but all hope he is enjoying the invigorating atmosphere of the golden land.

THE LATE PROF. W. D. SHIPMAN.

The intelligence of the death of Prof. W. D. Shipman has brought sadness into many hearts. We knew him for many years, and always found him kind and obliging. He was thoroughly devoted to the interests of the Universalist Church, and of Buchtel College, of which he was a graduate, and for many years a proficient instructor of the Greek language. Since his election as President of the Ohio Universalist Convention, we learned to appreciate his genuine zeal for the Universalist faith and Church more than ever before. The unexpected

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severance of his relations with the College was a heavy blow and the difficulty of obtaining another position bore heavily upon a mind rather prone to melancholy, and which at last gave way, and led to the sad termination of his life by his own hand. Bro. Shipman always loved to preach; and it will always be a source of pleasure to remember that he did what we could to secure him pulpit work. His aged father, Rev. C. L. Shipman, and the widow, may rest assured that they have the sympathy in their great sorrow of all who knew Bro. Shipman.

AKRON.

A correspondent from Akron informs us that the fair recently held by the Church, netted about two hundred dollars. This was a good result, especially as no dinners were served. The Y. P. C. U. had one of the tables, and the mingling of young and old added to the joys of the occasion. Our correspondent says: "A church strong in numbers and alive to the very heart, is growing up in Akron. The finances are in good condition. Our increase this year has met our expenses. The Penny-a-Day Fund for reduction of debt has yielded over four hundred dollars, and we have pledged seven hundred and sixty dollars to Buchtel College."

HOW GOD TRIUMPHS.

In Onward for December 23, there appeared a parable by Rev. J. F. Thompson, under the heading "How God Triumphs!" which presents in strange contrast the cruelties of Partialism, and God's goodness as displayed in Universalism. It is a good missionary document. The National Y. P. C. Union printed five thousand copies for distribution at the Atlanta Exposition; and the trustees of the General Convention, would do a wise thing to print a hundred thousand for gratuitous distribution.

THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

Christmas was observed by our Woodstock Church and Sunday-school, on Christmas eve. The church and Sunday-school room were filled. A handsome tree bearing "all manner of fruits," stood on the rostrum; a brief program was rendered, after which Santa Claus made many hearts happy. The Sunday-school is in a prosperous condition under charge of Prof. Walter Gifford and Mrs. Anna H. Smith.

The Walnut Hills Church, Cincinnati, was occupied all day Sunday, December 22, in commemoration of God's love to man in the sending of Jesus. The Sunday-school had a joyful time in singing Christmas songs, and discussing the history of the birth of Christ. At 11 A. M. there was an elaborate program of fine music, and a sermon by Rev. U. S. Milburn, entitled "A Message from Heaven." At 3 P. M. the Junior Y. P. C. U. under direction of Miss Pearl Littell, held an interesting meeting. At 6:45 P. M. with Miss Nettie B. Littell as leader, the Y. P. C. U. rendered an appropriate program of music. Miss Nellie Parsell read a paper, giving the history of Christmas, and Miss Alberta D. Garber read a paper on "The Spirit of Christmas Giving." At 7:45 in connection with appropriate music, the pastor read the first chapter of "The Light of the World," by Sir Edwin Arnold. The day was a joyous one throughout.

Quite a large congregation participated in the exercises at Plain City on Christmas eve. A fine program, arranged by the faithful superintendent, Miss Lizzie Calhoun. It included a choice original recitation by Miss Ermina C. Stray. The writer made a brief address, after which Santa Claus and wife appeared with a large basket of presents, in addition to those they "had sent on before," and which were placed on a beautiful arch erected on the rostrum. On Christmas night Miss Stray delivered a sermon appropriate to Christmas. The Sunday-school though small is doing good work, and has lately increased in numbers. At Eaton a beautiful Cantata was rendered on Christmas eve, after which several persons were received into the church. On Thursday evening a social was held, which was intended as a "Farewell" to Bro. B. G. Carpenter, and a "Welcome" to Bro. O. P. Moorman and wife. A short program was rendered, and refreshments served.

MASON.

Rev. B. G. Carpenter closed his connection with the church at Mason by a series of meetings which ended Sunday, December 22. Large congregations were present, and four persons received the fellowship of the church Sunday morning. Until more definite arrangements are made, Rev. G. A. Kratzer, of Hamilton, will supply the pulpit Sunday evenings.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

—Rev. Henrietta G. Moore began her regular work as pastor of our Woodstock church, December 29. She delivered a Christmas sermon, in the morning.

—By the death of Prof. W. D. Shipman, Dr. E. L. Rexford has become the President of the Ohio Universalist Convention.

—Dr. Rexford, our Columbus pastor, presented Sunday evening December 21 to a large congregation "Some Suggestions from the Mills Revival."

The East.

PENNSYLVANIA.—Linesville.—The year now closing has been an eventful one for this parish. The death of our pastor, Rev. M. L. Hewitt, last January, was severely felt by all and the death of two of our old members since has added to the sense of loss.

Shortly after Mr. Hewitt's death, Rev. O. R. Washburn took charge of the parish, preaching half the time here and half at Sharpsville. Since then eight new members have been received and two children christened. The attendance has been very good through the year, usually filling the church and the interest in the Sunday-school has been very satisfactory. Mr. Geo. Stratton, a brother of Rev. Thomas Stratton, of Maine, is an earnest and efficient superintendent.

The Y. P. C. U. is strong and doing good in many ways especially in its flower mission.

An era of good feeling seems to have begun here, the first union of all churches in the history of the town taking place Thanksgiving Day, at which time Father Shipman, who preached the first Universalist sermon here in 1839 was present on one of his ever-welcome visits and crowned his half-century of Christian work, often amidst controversy and bigoted opposition, by giving an apostolic benediction to a tolerant and reverent congregation, representing all the sects. In material ways the church has prospered greatly. The church and parsonage have been repainted and put in thorough repair, new sidewalks laid and the organ put in order. Our annual fair held December 11th to 13th was a success in every way, refreshments, sale of fancy articles, the three well-managed entertainments enabling us to clear \$175.

The South.

OUR TEXAS LETTER.

In a discussion recently held in Newport by Bro. Dudley S. Barker (licentiate), and Bro. A. Thompson (layman), with a Campbellite minister, the judges decided that the advocates of Universalism gained a decided victory.

Debates and discussions, in various localities of Texas, upon religious subjects, are popular.

There are many persons of partialist faith, who will never come out to hear a Universalist sermon, but who will always attend a religious debate.

In numbers of instances such ones have been forced to acknowledge the superiority of Universalism over other systems of religion. Some of our strongest members have been converted from their former beliefs by these debates.

Bro. A. G. Strain takes the lead in this kind of work, and usually has several engagements of this sort on hand.

Bro. K. Strain is travelling at present, preaching the Gospel of good will along the way, scattering as he goes the seeds of truth. Some day, it is likely, good results may be seen as the result of these efforts.

The Brothers Lawhorn, and Bro. Arnold continue their preaching in their section, several hundred miles distant from Hico. Universalism is more popular there—where in by-gone years Father Marmaduke Gardner, of sainted memory, kept the fires of Universalism alight and his numerous descendants are still loyal to the truth. Bro. Holt, of Hunt county, dispenses the word of grace—as occasion offers. Nearly all our ministers are obliged like St. Paul to work with their hands for the support of their families as well as preach.

It will take time, and more means than is obtainable at present, for Universalist ministers in Texas to make their professional work self-sustaining. This is a drawback to the spread of Universalism. Yet it makes some progress; much less however, than it might, with more generous help.

Our friends at Bowie are keeping up the Y. P. C. U. meeting every week and thus hold their interest for the church unabated. Bro. Billings is there at this date, and when he left home expected to have help in carrying on a series of meetings in Bowie.

Hico holds her own religious services and Y. P. C. U. meetings are held every Sunday. The latter has just voted \$5.00 for the Atlanta mission. A small sum, yet, for this "Union" more in proportion to its means than a larger amount would be for many others.

PERSONAL.

Rev. James Billings' 84th birthday was celebrated in Hico, Texas, with a Harvest Home-Supper and entertainment held in "All Souls Church." The Y. P. C. U. took charge of the entertainment, which consisted of fine music, instrumental and vocal, reading and recitations. A very enjoyable affair.

Rev. Mary C. Billings of Hico, Texas gave an address on "Women in Song," before the "Woman's State Council" in Dallas. Sister Billings is Chaplain of the Council, and is the only duly ordained woman preacher in Texas.

THE IDEAL RECORD BOOK.

The New Year is now beginning. Are you ready for it in your Sunday-school? Are you prepared to keep correct record of your school? The Ideal Sunday School Secretary's Report book will help you more than you ever imagine. Hear what a Methodist who has seen it says: "Our minister and our Secretary both compliment Mr. Grier very highly on getting up such a complete book for Sunday-school work. They both say it is the most complete thing they have ever seen and wish him great success in disposing of lots of them. They will speak of it and recommend it wherever they can. They had just bought a book for this purpose only two weeks before. They have abandoned that and commenced with this book last Sunday morning."

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A MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHICAGO.

A committee appointed by the last quarterly Sunday School Union, in conjunction with delegates from our various Y. P. C. Unions, have been investigating various neighborhoods within Chicago city limits with a view of establishing a mission Sunday-school under the auspices of both the Sunday-school Union and the Y. P. C. Unions. Now, therefore, will any isolated Universalist residing in a neighborhood which might properly be considered in the interest of such an enterprise, please correspond, without unnecessary delay, with the undersigned?

Per order of the Committee.
AARON A. THAYER.

LA GRANGE, ILL.

CHURCH HARMONIES, NEW AND OLD.

This new Hymn Book has been adopted by Universalist churches in the following places: Galesburg, Ill., Springfield, Mass., Albion, N. Y., (Fullman Memorial Church), Macedon, N. Y., Rumford Falls, Maine, Grove Hall Church, Boston, Geneva, N. Y., St. Johnsbury, Vt., Watertown, N. Y., Abington, Mass., Franklin, Mass., Le Roy, Ill., Livermore Falls, Maine, Webster City, Iowa, Swampscott, Mass., South Stratford, Vt., Kendall, N. Y., Syracuse, N. Y., Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Shirley Village, Mass., Roxbury, Mass., Pawtucket, R. I., Shawmut, Every Day Church, Boston, Canton, Mass., First Society, Providence, R. I., Stoughton, Mass., Madison, N. Y., Brattleboro, Vt., McHenry, Ill.

MACLEAN'S INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN.

The Congregationalist notices this work as follows: "MacLean goes carefully, yet without undue waste of words, over the life of St. John, the object of the Gospel, the evidences of its authenticity and similar matters, and furnishes an inter-linear literal translation with which the Authorized Version is compared in parallel columns. The book is eminently scholarly, and contains a large amount of material, the importance of which Biblical scholars will appreciate. Dr. MacLean has done good service in these pages."

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