

THE

PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE.

EDITED BY

C. VAN RENSSELAER.

"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."—JER. vi. 16.

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THE
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Miscellaneous Articles.

USES OF STORMY SABBATHS.

It was a fine day in autumn,—one that would well answer to Herbert's description,

“Sweet day! so cool, so calm, so bright,
The bridal of the earth and sky.”

The village pastor was in his pulpit, and the people in goodly numbers were in their pews. The solemn invocation was uttered. The psalms of praise were sung. The portions of Scripture from the Old and the New Testaments were read, with very brief comments. “The long prayer” was made, while the more aged people stood reverently with closed eyes, and some of the young people lazily reclined. At the usual time the preacher rose and announced his text:

“Fire and hail; snow and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word.”

The words immediately secured the attention of the audience. Some thought, “a strange text!” others, a “striking contrast with the day!” and all, “what will he make out of that?” The preacher gave a brief analysis of the Psalm, the 148th, wherein all nature, animate and inanimate, is invoked to praise God. The emotions of delight, of awe, or of sublimity produced by the different aspects of nature, were alluded to, and illustrated by reference both to the sacred writers and to the poets. The sublime apostrophe of Coleridge was quoted, ending,

“Earth with her thousand voices calls on God,”

and a sweet passage from Montgomery, beginning,

“If in the field I meet a smiling flower
Methinks it whispers, “God created me!”

And here the preacher took occasion to say that, while there might

accepted, and Mr. Stratton ordained and installed in December of the same year by the Presbytery of Mississippi. The church continues in a healthy and thriving condition, retaining its strength and importance, notwithstanding the considerable decrease in population, and in the amount of its business, which Natchez, in common with many other southern towns, has witnessed during the last ten years. The wants of a growing congregation have recently led to an extensive enlargement and improvement of the church building. A fine chapel was erected in 1849, for the use of the Sabbath-school and colonial congregation, and for weekly meetings. In 1844, the church employed a missionary to preach to the blacks, whose labours were continued till 1846. Since that time the pastor has taken charge of this congregation, a large and interesting one, and holds a regular service for them once each Sabbath. Provision has recently been made for the support of a colporteur and a city missionary, agencies which may possibly prepare the way for a second Presbyterian church.

The number of communicants at present on the roll is 212, and the amount of contributions reported for the year ending March, 1851, for Foreign Missions, was \$1247; for Domestic Missions, \$901; and for Education, \$485. The total of moneys contributed, in every way, to the support of religion during the same year, as reported to the General Assembly, was \$11,950. S.

LICENSURE AND ORDINATION OF SAMUEL MILLER.*

[The Rev. *Isaac W. K. Handy* writes to us as follows; and we assure him that he could not have done a more acceptable service than to give to the church the records pertaining to the early ecclesiastical life of the venerable Dr. Miller.]

DEAR BROTHER:—Whatever pertains to those venerable fathers, *Alexander and Miller*, is not only deeply interesting to us, their former pupils, but doubtless to the whole church. The extracts in the January number of the Magazine in relation to the licensure and ordination of Dr Alexander, were gratefully received by many, and have now a permanent record upon the pages of your valuable repository. I have no doubt you will be gratified to rescue from oblivion the following similar items concerning the Rev. Dr. Miller. They are transcribed from the records of the *Presbytery of Lewes*, now in my possession, and, when published by you, will have their first appearance before the eye of the public.

Fraternally yours,

ISAAC W. K. HANDY.

Middletown, Delaware, Feb. 5th, 1852.

SAMUEL MILLER ADMITTED UPON TRIALS FOR LICENSURE.

Page 143.—Sessions at Rockawalkin Church, Somerset County, Md., April 20th, 1791, 7 o'clock, [P. M.] Mr. SAMUEL MILLER, with a di-

* It is our intention to have a biographical sketch of Dr. Miller, with a portrait, in this volume of the Presbyterian Magazine.

ploma from the Pennsylvania University, and sufficient testimonials of his good, moral and religious character, and being in communion with the church, offered himself as a candidate for the gospel ministry. The Presbytery having examined him as to the power of religion upon his own soul, and obtained satisfaction, admitted him upon trials. He afterwards delivered a discourse upon 1 Cor. xv. 22, which had been extrajudicially given him, and which the Presbytery approved.

Page 144.—Presbytery examined Messrs. Collins* and Miller upon the Latin and Greek languages, and were fully satisfied.

Mr. Miller was appointed to prepare an Exegesis against our next meeting upon this question, "An Jesus post mortem ejus, in infernum descendit?" and a Lecture upon Luke x. 30—38.

PROGRESS OF TRIALS FOR LICENSURE.

Page 146.—*Fishing Creek, Dorchester County, Md., June 21st, 1791.* Mr. Miller delivered a Lecture and Exegesis, which were both approved.

Wednesday morning, June 22d, 1791. The Presbytery proceeded to examine Messrs. Collins and Miller on Rhetoric and Logic, in which pieces of trials they were approved.

Mr. Collins was appointed to prepare a popular sermon upon 2 Cor. iii. 18.

Page 147.—Mr. Miller was also appointed to prepare a popular sermon upon Romans viii. 14.

DEATH OF REV. JOHN MILLER NOTICED, AND LICENSURE OF HIS SON SAMUEL AT THE SAME MEETING OF PRESBYTERY.

Page 148.—*Dover, Delaware, October the 12th, 1791.* Absent, the Rev. Messrs. Jacob Ker and John Miller,† the last of whom departed this life on July the 22d, 1791. The loss of this member is most sensibly felt by the Presbytery, of which he has long been a worthy and respectable character.

As the Moderator was indisposed the Presbytery was opened by the popular sermons of Messrs. John Collins and Samuel Miller, assigned to them at our last meeting.

Page 149.—*At the house of Mr. James Bellach—6 o'clock.* P. P. S. Q. S. The Presbytery proceeded to consider the popular discourses of Messrs. Collins and Miller, and approved of them both. Afterwards the Presbytery proceeded to examine these candidates upon Natural and Moral Philosophy, in which examination they were approved.

Page 149.—*October 15th, 7 o'clock.* The Presbytery met according to adjournment. P. P. S. Q. S. The Presbytery proceeded to examine Messrs. Collins and Miller upon Divinity, and approved them both.

The Presbytery of Lewes having received sufficient testimonials in favour of Messrs. Collins and Miller, of their having gone through a regular course of literature; of their good moral character, and of their being in the communion of the church, proceeded to take the usual parts of trial for

* Rev. John Collins, who married Margaret Ker, great granddaughter of *Walter Ker*, of Freehold memory. The remains of Mr. Collins lie interred in the graveyard of St. George's, Del., of which church he was pastor at the time of his death.

† The Rev. John Miller was for forty-three years the beloved pastor of the church at Dover. He was in the sixty-ninth year of his age at the time of his death. His remains are deposited in the graveyard of the old church. The Rev. T. G. Murphy is now pastor of the church.

their licensure; and they having given satisfaction as to their accomplishment in literature, as to their experimental acquaintance with religion, and as to their proficiency in Divinity and other studies, the Presbytery did and hereby do express their approbation of all those parts of trial; and they having adopted the Confession of Faith of this Church, and satisfactorily answered the questions appointed to be put to candidates to be licensed, the Presbytery did and hereby do license* the said Messrs. John Collins and Samuel Miller to preach the gospel of Christ as probationers for the holy ministry within the bounds of this Presbytery, or wherever they shall be orderly called.†

WORK ASSIGNED.

Mr. Miller was appointed to supply at Dover the fourth Sabbath of October, and the next Sabbath-day at Duck Creek Cross Roads.‡ The first Sabbath of November at Dover, and the next Sabbath at Duck Creek, and the remainder of his time at discretion until our Spring meeting of Presbytery.

ASKS LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE BOUNDS OF PRESBYTERY.

Page 150.—Mr. Samuel Miller, having asked leave of absence for some time from the bounds of the Presbytery, before our next sessions, obtained his request.

RECEIVES A CALL.

Broad Creek, § April 17th, 1792.—Presbytery was opened by Mr. Samuel Miller with a sermon from 1 John, vi. 25.

Messrs. Miller and Collins fulfilled the appointments which were given to them at our meeting at Dover.

A call was delivered in to Presbytery, from the congregation at Dover, for Mr. Samuel Miller to take the pastoral charge of said congregation, which call was put into the hands of Mr. Miller for consideration.

Page 152.—At Capt. [Robert] Houston's house, 5 o'clock.—Mr. Miller was appointed to supply at Dover and Duck Creek, alternately, until the first of June next; from which time, until our Fall meeting, he was allowed, at his discretion, to visit the United Presbyterian Congregations in New York, at their earnest request by them signified to us.

CALL TO THE UNITED CONGREGATIONS OF NEW YORK.

Page 154.—*Sessio Octogesima Septima.*—*Broad Creek*, November 20th, 1792.—A *pro re nata* Presbytery having been regularly called by the Moderator, for the purpose of furnishing an opportunity to the United Presbyterian Congregations in New York, of offering a call to Mr. Samuel Miller, our licentiate, to be their pastor, met—P. P. S.

Mr. William Fraser, a commissioner from the United Presbyterian Congregations of New York, appeared, and laid a call before the Presbytery for Mr. Samuel Miller to be pastor of said congregations.

The Presbytery put said call into the hands of Mr. Miller for his consideration.

Adjourned to the house of Captain Houston, to meet at six o'clock.

* Drs. Alexander and Miller were licensed in the same year and in the same month; the former on the 1st of October, 1791, and the latter on the 13th.—ED.

† The following members of Presbytery were present at the licensure of Mr. Samuel Miller, viz:—Rev. Messrs. William McKee, Samuel McMasters, John Rankin, and Isaac Tull. Elders John Warren, Joseph Hall, and Dr. James Tilton.

‡ Smyrna, Kent Co., Del.

§ Laurel, Sussex Co., Del.

Capt. Houston's, 6 o'clock.—Presbytery met according to adjournment. P. P. S. Q. S. Ordered that the minutes of our last session be read.

The Moderator asked Mr. Miller, "Do you accept the call from the United Congregations of New York, or not?" Mr. Miller answered, "I do accept the call from New York, and consequently give up the call which I have in my possession from Dover."

RECOMMENDATION.

Page 155.—Mr. Miller then asked a dismissal from the Presbytery of Lewes, that he might join the Presbytery of New York, upon which Presbytery did dismiss Mr. Miller, and he is hereby dismissed with the following recommendation :

"The Presbytery of Lewes received Mr. Samuel Miller with a fair character and the best recommendations. He has preached in our bounds, and under our direction, to the general acceptance of those who heard him. It affords us pleasure to testify that his moral and religious conversation has been unexceptionable. We dismiss him with regret, believing him to be of promising talents, and likely to be of use in the churches of Christ with us. We commit him to the holy keeping of God, and pray that he, the Presbytery, and the congregation in which he may labour, may have mutual comfort and advantage."

Ordered that a fair copy be made out, and be attested by the Moderator and Clerk.

A true extract of the minutes.

ISAAC W. K. HANDY, Stated Clerk.

HIS ORDINATION.

[Dr. Krebs, of New York, has kindly furnished the extracts from the Minutes of the Presbytery of New York, relating to Dr. Miller's ordination.]

At South Hanover, January 15th, 1793.—Mr. Samuel Miller appeared before the Presbytery, and produced an extract of a minute of the Presbytery of Lewes, setting forth that the United Congregations in New York had brought before them a call for Mr. Miller, and that, having been put in his hands, he had accepted of it, and containing a dismissal and recommendation of Mr. Miller; and he was received under the care of the Presbytery.

Mr. Van Gelder, a commissioner from the United Congregations in New York, requested the Presbytery to take the necessary steps for Mr. Miller's ordination as soon as possible. And the Presbytery examined him as to his experimental acquaintance with religion, and his views in entering the ministry, in which he was approved.

January 16th, 1793.—Mr. Carle and Mr. Miller were examined in Latin and Greek, in geography, logic, rhetoric, natural philosophy, astronomy, moral philosophy, divinity, ecclesiastical history, and church government, in all which they were approved.

Mr. Miller was appointed to prepare a sermon on Rom. iii. 24, and an Exegesis on "*An Christus post mortem ejus, in gehennam descenderit?*"

At Orangedale, May 7th, 1793.—The Presbytery was opened with a sermon by Mr. Samuel Miller, from Rom. iii. 24.

The Presbytery having heard Mr. Samuel Miller's Exegesis, sustained it and his sermon preached at the opening of Presbytery.

May 9th, 1793.—The Presbytery agreed to ordain Mr. Samuel Miller, and install him on Wednesday the 5th of June, at 10, A. M., and ap-

pointed Dr. McKnight to preach, Dr. Rodgers to preside, and Dr. McWhorter to give the exhortation to the people.

At New York, June 5th, 1793.—The Presbytery proceeded to the ordination of Mr. Miller. Dr. McKnight preached from 2 Cor. iv. 5; and Mr. Miller, having answered the prescribed questions, was set apart to the work of the gospel ministry, by prayer and the laying on [of the hands] of the Presbytery, and installed as co-pastor with Dr. Rodgers and Dr. McKnight of the United Presbyterian Congregations in New York; after which Dr. McWhorter gave an exhortation to the people, and Mr. Miller took his seat in Presbytery.*

A true copy of the minutes.

JOHN M. KREBS. Stated Clerk

New York, March 5th, 1852.

Review and Criticism.

Chapters on the Shorter Catechism, by A LADY. Reprinted from the second Edinburgh edition. Wm. S. Martien. Philadelphia. 1852. [Price 75 cents.]

This volume is written upon the principle of illustrating the Shorter Catechism by stories. The plan has a charm for young people, and if not carried too far is useful. In reading such works children are very apt to get at the stories and to lose the application. The doctrines are commonly overlooked in the fiction. Here is the great danger. The only safe way of reading a book like this is to insist upon its being done intelligently. The young pupil should be questioned on each chapter, his attention directed to the hidden truth, and the romance-spirit counteracted by parental and affectionate explanation. We perused the first chapter with a good deal of interest, and if it is a fair specimen of the book, it will be attractive and edifying to many. Indeed we have no doubt that the edition will soon be exhausted. What! a work on the *Shorter Catechism*, full of stories, not sell in this story-telling age! Then the Presbyterian boys and girls are very different from the rest of the rising generation.

The New Doctrine of Intervention Tried by the Teachings of Washington. An address delivered in the Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, &c. By H. A. BOARDMAN. Lipincott, Grambo & Co. Philadelphia. 1852.

Dr. Boardman delivered this address on the evenings of the 23d and 24th of February to large congregations of attentive hearers. The address is marked by ability, tact and eloquence, and contains matter of grave consideration, much of which will commend itself to the Christian patriot. We think that our eloquent brother and friend has an unnecessary and unwarrantable train of severe personal remark on the great Hungarian leader. Notwithstanding the whole anti-Kossuth aspect of the discussion, Dr. Boardman, in our judgment, has not invalidated a single position taken in the article of the February number of this Magazine. On the contrary, the following sentences are in direct accordance with the fundamental principles of that article:

* There is no record of the charge to the pastor, it being probably included in the sermon.