

THE HERALD AND PRESBYTER

A PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY PAPER.

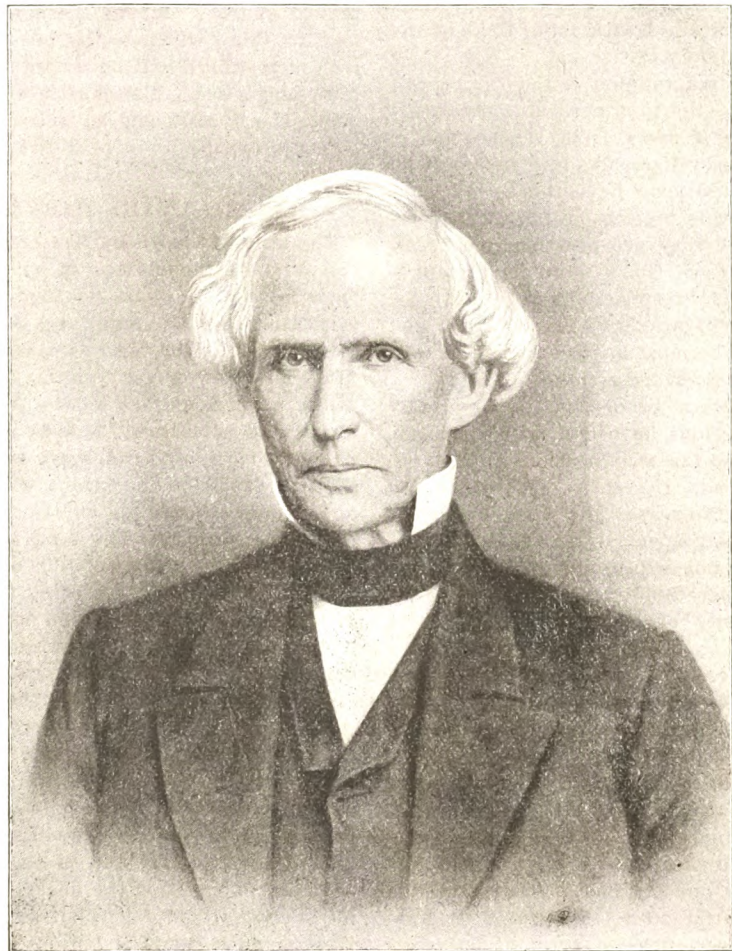
Vol. lxx.

Cincinnati and St. Louis, January 4, 1899.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:	Page
The Power of United Effort.....	2
What Shall the Harvest Be?.....	2
Approved Unto God.....	2
The Spirit of Christ.....	3
Our New Colonies and Our Catholic Church Papers.....	3
The Real Issue.....	4
Notes	4
OUR CONTRIBUTORS:	
The Call (poetry). Susie M. Best.....	6
How We Live. S. E. Wishard, D.D.....	6
Senex Smith: His Notes and Notions.....	6
The Comfort of the Church. G. B. F. Hallock, D.D.....	7
To the Infidel (poetry). George H. Peck.....	8
Westminster Ideas. Rev. John Y. Ewart.....	8
Presbyterian Doctrine.—VI. W. S. Pryse, D.D.	8
Hope (poetry). Harold D. Hughes.....	9
Offered Safety. B. S. Everitt, D.D.....	9
Letter from Iowa. Daniel Williams.....	10
Necrology of 1898. Rev. E. G. McKinley..	10
1898 and 1899 (poetry). Rev. A. J. Reynolds	11
Pittsburg Letter. S. J. Fisher, D.D.....	11
MISSION WORK.....	12
NEW PUBLICATIONS.....	13
THE SABBATH-SCHOOL. Lesson for Jan. 15.	14
YOUNG PEOPLE. Topic for Jan. 15.....	15
THE PRAYER-MEETING. Subject for Jan. 11.	15
RELIGIOUS NEWS.....	16
PANSY'S STORY—YESTERDAY FRAMED IN TODAY. Chapter X.....	19
PRO AND CON.....	20
MARRIAGES AND OBITUARIES.....	21
HOME CIRCLE.....	22
GENERAL NEWS.....	24
MUSIC AND ART.....	27
PRESBYTERIAL MEETINGS.....	27
OUR EXCHANGES.....	28
EDUCATIONAL.....	28
SELECT READINGS.....	29
HOME AND FARM.....	30
WIT AND WISDOM	32



REV. MARTIN M. POST, D.D.

DR. POST, who died October 11, 1876, at Logansport, Ind., was one of the pioneer Presbyterian ministers of that State. He reached Logansport on Christmas Day, 1829, and he remained there during his lifetime. Upon the conclusion of his theological seminary course at Andover, he came to this newly opened Western country, his heart being set on distinctively Home Mission work.

He found a new field at Logansport. He went on horseback from Madison, by way of Indianapolis and Lafayette, taking nine days to it, through mud and ice, and over unbridged rivers. Outside the towns of Logansport and Fort Wayne, the entire population of Indiana north of the Wabash River did not, at this time, exceed three hundred.

In about one year after his coming, on January 21, 1833, a church was organized with 21 members, and 13 were added during the year. The first elders were John Adams and Joseph Gibson. Rev. James Thompson and Rev. James Crawford assisted at the organization of the church.

Father Post, as he was commonly called for many years of his later life, continued as pastor of the church until 1866, when, on account of advanced years, he was relieved and made Pastor Emeritus, which position he held until his death. He was a man of lovable disposition, spirituality of life, and striking devotion to the cause of Christ and his Church. He is lovingly remembered by great numbers of persons still living, who thank God for his ministry.

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Married.

(No Charge for Marriage Notices.)

PEIPMEIER-BURNS—At the home of the bride's parents, December 27, by Rev. A. E. Vanorden, Mr. Ira Peipmeier and Miss Daisy Burns, of Appleton City, Mo.

McNAMARA-SCHMICK—Dr. Andrew J. McNamara, of Cleveland, O., and Miss J. Josephine Schmick of Leetonia, O., by Rev. J. P. Anderson, at the home of the bride's parents, Dec. 28, 1898.

MARTIN-TYNDALL—At the home of the bride's parents, Alton, N. Y., Dec. 28, 1898, by Rev. Stanley G. Tyndall, of Springfield, Mass., Charles Augustus Martin, of Rose, N. Y., and Miss Florence Ida Tyndall, of Alton.

WILKINS-PARRISH—On Dec. 28, 1898, at the home of the bride's parents, William A. Wilkins, Jr., and Miss Eva M. Parrish, both of Troy Grove, Ill. Rev. John F. Scherer officiating.

DAY-LIGHTHALL—At the parsonage, Dwight, Kan., Dec. 18, 1898, by Rev. D. G. Richard, Walter N. Day and Miss Ethel F. Lighthall, both of Dwight, Kan.

SHANKLAND-GLEASON—At Hazelton, Kan., Dec. 26, 1898, by Rev. D. G. Richards, of Dwight, Kan. Brother-in-law of the bridegroom, James H. Shankland, of Argonia, and Miss Alice Gleason, of Hazelton, Kan.

RANSELL-THOMPSON; THOMPSON-RANSELL—At the residence of L. Moore, Dec. 28, 1898, by Rev. David R. Hindman, Mr. F. C. Ransell and Miss Clara Thompson, and Mr. J. P. Thompson and Miss Mabel Ransell, all of Auburn, Kan.

FITZWATER-CONDO—On Jan. 2, 1899, at the home of the officiating minister, Rev. E. Layport, Cleveland, O., Mr. Wilton Fitzwater and Miss Elizabeth Condo, both of Clermont Co., O.

WAST-McSHANE—Near Tipton, Ind., Dec. 25, 1898, by Rev. C. E. Huffer, Mr. B. F. Wast, of Sharpsville, Ind., and Miss Nancy M. McShane.

MARTIN-DEADERICK—In the First Presbyterian Church, Quincy, Ill., Dec. 29, 1898, Mr. Edwin Henry Martin, of Utica, N. Y., and Miss Olin Lavina Deaderick, of Quincy, Ill., Rev. Rollin R. Farquhar, the pastor, officiating.

Died.

(Obituary Notices inserted at the rate of seventy-five cents per hundred words.)

LATIMER—Mrs. Susan Jane Latimer died Dec. 31, 1898, in the 97th year of her age. She was born at Washington, Mason Co., Ky., Nov. 4, 1801. She joined the Presbyterian Church at the age of 12, and was always a faithful attendant at all the church services until she had a stroke of paralysis, about two years before her death. She did not fully recover from the stroke. Her mind was clear to the last, and with the help of a nurse she was up and around until fifteen minutes before she passed quietly away.

ARMSTRONG—We record the death and mourn the loss of Mrs. Anna Yates Armstrong, wife of Rev. J. R. Armstrong, of Kirkwood, Mo. She entered into rest January 5, at 1 A. M. Not only in her home, but wherever known, Mrs. Armstrong made and held for herself a very high place in the hearts and regard of her friends. She was quite active in mission work in her own church, and in the Woman's Board of the Southwest. Mr. Armstrong retired from the active work of the ministry a few years ago on account of advancing years and their consequent infirmities, to the old homestead near Kirkwood, where his father entered land in the early part of the century. There he and his wife and children have lived quietly and happily, doing good as they had opportunity, until one by one the children have found homes for themselves, except one devoted daughter, who remained to minister to the comfort of her parents. And now death has claimed the wife and mother, only to translate her a little in advance to the better home. J. W. A.

SWAN—Mr. William Swan died from heart failure at his residence on South Main Street, Oxford, O., Dec. 24, 1898. He was born in Huntingdon Co., Pa., Oct. 24, 1823. When he was fifteen years of age, his father moved to Freble Co., O. Mr. Swan united with the Presbyterian Church at Camden, and for sixty years has been a most faithful and intelligent member. For twenty-five years he was a ruling elder. His son and daughter say: "We do not remember father as ever missing but one Sabbath from church while we lived on the farm, though we lived three miles from town with a rough and at times, for the team, an impassable road, and that Sabbath he was threatened with apoplexy. Mr. Swan was married to Miss Ann Christina Kramer, Aug. 12, 1843. Their son William Kramer Swan, and daughter, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Logan, together with four orphan children, who called them parents, are spared to mourn with and comfort Mrs. Swan, and to be her joy till she too is called home.

STEEL—James Steel was born at Biggar, in Lanarkshire, Scotland, on the 20th day of July, 1807, and died Dec. 21, 1898; aged 91 years, 5 months, and 1 day. At nine years of age he, with his elder brother John, in charge of their cousin, Mr. John Gibson, sailed from Glasgow, Scotland, on the first day of November, 1816, and arrived at New York, the 30th day of December. James Steel, Sr., and his wife, Jane Gladstone Steel, with their younger sons, William, Thomas, David and Alexander, sailed from Glasgow, Scotland, for Liverpool, England, May 31, 1817, and arrived at Liverpool the 8th of June following. They spent several days in the home of Mr. John Gladstone, the father of the late Hon. William Ewart Gladstone, and a cousin of Mrs. Steel. They sailed from Liverpool the 19th of June, and arrived at Baltimore, Md., Aug. 15, 1817. Their youngest son, George Gladstone, was born near Winchester, Va. He is the only surviving member of the family. Their average age has been 31 years. The shortest-lived one died at the age of twenty-two.

In this country the family settled first in Virginia. Soon after, the mother, looking from her window, saw a gang of slaves, chained together, and driven along like cattle. She exclaimed: "Is this free America? I want none of it!" Her young son James was so impressed, that in after years he said: "My mother's tears made me an abolitionist." After remaining there two years, they removed to Ohio, bought and settled on a farm near the present Slate Mills, Ross Co. When of age, James started out for himself. After working a short time for a neigh-

bor, Mr. Clark, he with his brother John rented and worked a farm near Bainbridge. Here he married Miss Jane Somerville, Oct. 3, 1837. In 1842 he purchased the farm at the mouth of the North Fork of Paint Creek. Here he lived till called home.

His wife died in 1874. Thirteen children had been born to them. Three died in early childhood. One son died in the army, during the Civil War. Nine are still living, all members of the Church. Two sons and two sons-in-law are ruling elders.

At about the age of 21 Mr. Steel united with the Union Church, near Chillicothe, and ever after lived a devoted Christian life, for many years a ruling elder. He was prominent in all reform movements, a strong anti-slavery man, long connected with the underground railroad, when it was exceedingly unpopular, and exposed him to threats and mob violence. As his minister advocated slavery, he went off in the Free Church movement. He and his brothers secured a church building belonging to the new school body, and brought it into the Free Church connection. It is now the North Fork Church, Presbytery of Chillicothe. He was also one of the earliest advocates of temperance reform, when drinking was almost a universal custom. In this cause he labored till death. He accused all these things, because he believed them right, according to the law of the Lord. He had long been very feeble, helpless indeed, and was only waiting to be called home. "So he giveth his beloved sleep." G. C.

SCOVEL—Mrs. Caroline Woodruff Scovel was born at New Albany, Ind., on the 10th of February, 1837, and died at Wooster, Ohio, on the 20th of December, 1898.

Her ancestry on her mother's side has a well-recognized place (Stanton and Collins) in New England, and on her father's side in New Jersey—there having been no less than six members of the Woodruff family in the church of Elizabeth in the days of the Revolution. Her education was had in the admirable Collegiate Institute taught by John B. Anderson in the city where her whole childhood was passed. She excelled in music, and taught it in several branches for a year before her marriage, in 1857.

Throughout life, Mrs. Scovel was never very strong, but persevered in domestic and public duties despite weariness. It was because she thought out her work at home so carefully that she was enabled to work out many a thought for others outside of it.

Notwithstanding the results of the severe illness of two years ago, there came this year a brief season of apparently well-founded hope of complete recovery. As this passed away the trial was borne with exemplary patience. Her last days were free from acute suffering, and she was sustained throughout by an unflinching trust in the promise of the Master, whose she was and whom she served.

The following remarks were made at the funeral service by Rev. Dr. O. A. Hills:

The life, whose coronation we celebrate to-day, was in an unusual measure a finished life. No broken shaft or unfinished arch may fittingly symbolize the earthly course of our dear departed. The sheaf was fully ripe. It was gathered, in its season, into the heavenly garner. From whatever point of view we contemplate Mrs. Scovel's three-score years in each of its different phases and successive stages, we shall be impressed with the fact that, in every part, and not less as a whole, hers was a finished life.

For twenty-seven years she served her Lord as a pastor's wife. In the three places of her sojourning in this relation at Jeffersonville, Ind.; Springfield, O., and Pittsburg, Pa.—hers was a full and rounded service. Delightful testimonies come to us from these cities, and especially the last named, where two-thirds of this period of her life was spent, certifying to her faithfulness and efficiency as an helpmeet to her husband in shepherding Christ's flock. Indeed, as one has written from her childhood's home, great things in the service of Christ were expected of her, even before she became Mrs. Scovel, and these expectations were not disappointed. Rev. Dr. Breed, writing from Pittsburg, says that when he came to the First Presbyterian Church of that city, he met everywhere abundant evidences of affection for her person and appreciation of her work. Twenty-seven years is a long period of service in any form of Christian work. What more could our friend have done in finishing this part of her course?

Mrs. Scovel spent fifteen years of her life as the wife of the president of our beloved University. It is superfluous for me to tell this company how she accomplished her work in this relation. Deeply interested in the institution, her work for it ran parallel with her husband's official relations to it as president, and all her efforts ably seconded his in giving it prosperity. Her home was a hotel for its friends and visitors; and her self-denying life was not second to any in building up its wide-spreading interests. She had an affectionate concern for the young men and women who came here for an education, and her sympathy with them in their struggles and trials was heart-felt. I have here an illustration of this, in a letter received since her departure, from one who speaks of his coming to see the President with a companion, in a time of discouragement, and, in his absence, being comforted by Mrs. Scovel's motherly counsel, followed at once by a sympathetic and earnest prayer for and with the young men. This was doubtless one of the many instances of her helpfulness to the young people. It would never have been known from her telling it. In quiet devotion to her Lord she thus sought to finish her work in this influential sphere. And now, that we can take the retrospect of these fruitful years, we may well ask, What more could our dear one have done in perfecting her service for the institution she loved?

Then, there were also subordinate periods of Mrs. Scovel's life, marked by this same characteristic of completeness. She was, as may not be known to many here, one of the organizers of the Pittsburg and Allegheny Committee of Foreign Missions, and for eleven years she was well-nigh its life and soul—an organization always influential in extending the kingdom of Christ, and one of the pioneers in the great work of women for their Lord and their own sex, which began its remarkable development about the time of the reunion of the Presbyterian churches. I have reason to know, from my residence in one of these churches, how important and influential was Mrs. Scovel's relation to this Society; and I then learned how glad she had been when from her husband's church went forth the first missionary supported by the Committee. But, with her removal from Pittsburg, this part of her work was done, and she was to return to it no more.

Another great work, in which she was permitted to bear a shaping hand, was the organization of the Women's Executive Committee of Home Missions, organized, less than two years ago, to the Woman's Board of Home Missions. As she had wrought so long and faithfully for the Foreign work, so now she gave herself to the kindred and coordinate work in behalf of her own country. On Dec. 12, 1873, this great auxiliary of our Church in evangelizing our

own land was organized. Mrs. Scovel presided with rare tact in the meeting which fixed its principles. She was one of the two vice presidents first chosen, with Mrs. Green as president, and Mrs. Haines as secretary; and, during the twenty years of her connection with the organization, her position has not only been an official one, but one also of great influence. Her presence was often deemed indispensable in meetings of the parent society, and far more at the Synodical meetings in the Ohio branch. But here, too, the work soon grew so great, and extended its branches so widely, that no one person seemed any longer necessary to its existence or prosperity. So when, of late years, our friend found it needful to withdraw her hand, she had the satisfaction of knowing that her work for it, and in connection with it, was done. Until that work was accomplished she had strength for it. When it was finished, she rested from her labors.

And still another work of a more public character remained for her to do. I refer to the establishing in Wooster of the Home for the Children of Missionaries. Those who have been especially connected with this work will know, without eulogy from me, of the vastly benign influence of Mrs. Scovel in bringing it to completion. For six years her wisdom and watchfulness, her devotion and practical sense, have been incalculable elements of power in the successful inauguration and carrying on of what all thought might be an experiment. Her name must always stand in the history of its beneficence just next to that of the generous founder—Mrs. Thaw. While the years were few and short, they were long enough to establish these homes in the hearts of the Church and her missionary servants. And her hand was on the helm of the local management until it was needed there no more.

Still further, if turning from these public aspects of her course, we may intrude into the privacies of this bereft and desolate home, her rounded life here also stands most clear. She was permitted to live till her children were all grown, and to see even her children's children. With waisting strength in the lengthening years, what more could she have done for them, if she had lived? The last word had been spoken, the last prayer offered; could there remain aught but the sweet and ever-during memories of a mother beloved, whose chief desire was the salvation of her loved ones?

Thus, with her work abroad and at home all done, how fitting these final months of home nesting and looking out upon "the land that is afar off." The Lord had permitted her to finish up every period of her life, and every form of loving service; and then he "shut her in" to the nearer view and deeper experiences of the spiritual realm. Surely, this was a finished life.

Some traits of Mrs. Scovel's character and some lessons of her life deserve here a brief mention, not in the way of eulogy of her, but of the grace of Christ, which made her what she was, and enabled her to do what she did. Among these I must not fail to mention her great good sense and practical wisdom. In all parts of her life's work—in the various Committees and Boards, with which she was connected—this was a distinguishing feature of her spirit. All her co-workers came to regard her sound, practical judgment as of immense value, while the firmness of her convictions, combined with great tactfulness of assertion and administration of them, made her an admirable leader.

This leadership was characterized by the utmost gracefulness of manner in the discharge of all public duties. She was an ideal leader of a public meeting. This has often been remarked upon by her friends and fellow-laborers in missionary meetings and societies. And it was especially notable during her term of service as president of the Woman's Presbyterian Foreign Missionary Society, when, with the assistance of her able lieutenant, Mrs. Sue L. McMillan as secretary, the annual meetings were seasons of both great spiritual fervor and practical force, impulse and outcome.

For all such public service—and this is another thing to be noted in the life of our dear friend—she was in the habit of making thorough preparation. She brought "beaten oil" for the lighting of the sanctuary; and what often, because of its smooth going, seemed to be the usual matter of a moment, had been carefully prepared and pre-arranged. Nothing was more noticeable in this management of the public assembly than her great familiarity with the Scriptures, and her facility in the felicitous quotation of appropriate texts.

And this suggests another interesting habit of her life—the diligent study of God's Word. In this she thought but little of an extensive and expensive apparatus in the way of books and commentaries. A reference Bible was enough for her; and, comparing spiritual things with spiritual, she attained unusually clear and suggestive views of truth and duty, and brought forth out of the treasury of the Holy Scriptures things both new and old. Who can doubt that this constant and Scriptural study of the inspired Volume was the secret of her eminent usefulness, and visible ripening for the kingdom above?

Such a life was not without its trials and crosses, but it could only end in the coronation which we celebrate to-day. A few years ago I went into the little English cemetery in the city of Nice, to stand a few moments beside the grave of Henry F. Lyte, who sang for us all, "Abide With Me." A white marble slab, with a suitable inscription, covers the grave. On the one end of the slab, on a pedestal of three diminishing blocks of marble, rises to the height of four or five feet a beautiful white marble cross, it being the design of the poet's friends apparently to embody the thought of the last stanza of the immortal hymn—

"Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes."

But other forces, I found, were there doing honor to his memory. A living palm tree had been planted on an adjoining lot, and one of its long, broad fronds had stretched over the singer's resting place and was lying on the transverse arm of the cross. The living palm covering the white marble furnished a beautiful picture; and as my eye rested upon it, it seemed symbolical of the poet's life—the palm of victory covered the cross of conflict. May I not just as truly say this of our departed friend? The palm covers the cross. The day of her death was the day of her triumph. The cross she carries no more; among the blood-washed throng she waves the palm of victory. Amen.

Notices.

PRESBYTERY OF ST. PAUL will meet in the Westminster Church, St. Paul, on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 10:30 A. M. J. C. Robinson, S. C.

PRESBYTERY OF WESTCHESTER will meet in the Assembly room, Board of Foreign Missions, 153 Fifth Avenue, New York, Tuesday, January 17, at 10:30 A. M. W. J. Cumming, S. C.