

# Christian Culture

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# CHRISTIAN CULTURE.

A Local Interdenominational Journal, Religious, Literary and Social.

Vol. I.

LANCASTER, PA., MARCH 1, 1890.

No. 1.

## Christian Culture.

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THE REV. J. MAX HARK, D. D., } EDITORS.  
THE REV. CHARLES L. FRY, }

All communications should be addressed to the editors.  
No attention will be paid to anonymous communications. Every contribution intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The editors do not hold themselves responsible for the views expressed by contributors or correspondents.  
Postage for their return in case of rejection should always accompany manuscripts sent to the editors, otherwise they will not be preserved.

LANCASTER, PA., MARCH 1, 1890.

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*Next week our agent will call upon you for your subscription. Before giving it to him examine his credentials.*

*And before deciding whether to subscribe or not, please examine our paper carefully. It is a tolerably fair sample of what CHRISTIAN CULTURE is going to be—at least, no future number shall be inferior to this one, though we hope and expect that each one shall be better than its predecessor. If, after examination, you think it will be worth half a dollar a year to you, we shall be very glad to receive your subscription. If you don't think so, then don't give it. We want CHRISTIAN CULTURE to be taken on its merits alone—not "for the good of the cause," or to "help it along," nor for any other merely benevolent reason. We simply propose a fair business exchange, and offer to give monthly what we regard as a just and honest equivalent for the price of subscription; nor do we want that price from any one who does not consider the paper worth it. So, we repeat, examine the paper before deciding.*

Al! March! We know thou art  
Kind hearted, spite of ugly looks and threats,  
And out of sight art nursing April's violets!

—Helen Hunt Jackson.

## Editorial.

How do you like our cover—designed and engraved here at Lancaster?

\*\*\*

So far as we have seen, the chief objection to the Australian system of voting seems to be that it makes cheating too difficult.

\*\*\*

Now that our municipal election is over, does not all the abuse that was heaped upon the candidates, the lies that were told about two of our most respectable citizens, one of whom is now to be our Mayor—does it not all appear to have been mean and contemptible! And did it do any good? Why cannot we once have an election free from slander and vituperation.

\*\*\*

To give our readers a hint of some of the good things they may expect, we are happy to announce that original contributions in the direct line of the work of CHRISTIAN CULTURE have been promised us, among others, from the pens of such able and well known local writers as

Prof. J. H. Dubbs, D.D., F.R.H.S.,  
W. U. Hensel, Esq.,  
Prof. J. P. McCaskey, A.M.,  
Miss Elizabeth Carpenter,  
Prof. R. C. Schiedt, Ph.D.,  
Wm. Leaman, Esq.,  
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The Rev. H. A. Brickenstein, of Lititz,  
Mr. F. A. Diffenderfer,  
E. K. Martin, Esq.,  
Prof. F. A. Gast, D.D.,  
A. F. Hostetter, Esq.,  
Prof. J. Kerschner, Ph.D.,  
W. W. Franklin, Esq.,  
"Geo. Vandalear,"

and others whose names will be announced later. The list is one any journal might well be proud of, and assures the success of our undertaking.



LANCASTER is a long suffering and good-natured community. There are few more so in the State. But is it not rather an imposition on its good nature to deprive its citizens of their right to a free passage on its sidewalks, for days and weeks, on the most crowded thoroughfares of the city, and make them wade out into the middle of the muddy street, and dodge about among horses and vehicles, simply to accommodate the builders of some new house? The discomfort of the many for the convenience of the few is a new principle in municipal government, and altogether peculiar to Lancaster.

\*\*\*

A MOVEMENT is on foot among some of our citizens interested in forestry, and tree-planting and preservation in general, to have Prof. B. E. Fernow, of Philadelphia, deliver a lecture on the subject some time early during this month. Prof. Fernow is one of the highest authorities in the country on forestry and tree-culture, and a highly interesting and eloquent speaker. It is hoped also to have Governor Beaver here at the same time to make an address. We believe such a meeting, large and enthusiastic, could easily be held, and would result at once in what Lancaster county so badly needs, a County Forestry Association. Let's have the meeting soon, and the Association!

\*\*\*

THE mortality in our city during the past season has been something unusual. Some of our wealthiest, busiest, ablest, best known and most respected citizens have passed away. It will be difficult to supply the place of many of them in our professional, business and social life. Yet those places must be filled, they already have been, or are being, filled; for the work of the community must and will go on. Upon them that remain, therefore, the duties and responsibilities of this work have been placed. In addition to those we had before, we now have also those that used to be shared by them who have passed away. The question is not, Shall we accept them? we must do that; but, What shall we do with them? How are we going to carry forward the work they have left us? Shall we be as faithful, as enterprising and energetic, as honest and upright as they were? Shall we be as good Christians and church members, as public spirited, progressive, and good citizens? Such are the questions those that remain must answer—not in words, but deeds. And how we answer them determines, for this generation at least, whether our city's life and work shall go backward or forward.

\*\*\*

Fox chasing seems to have had a decided revival in our county during the past season. That looks to us very much like making progress backward, so far as "the march of civilization" is concerned.

## OUR NAME AND AIM.

WE are well aware that there are more humbugs perpetrated in the world in the name of Christianity and of culture than in any other two names in the language. And moreover we despise the custom of labelling everything as Christian, believing that anything really Christian will show its Christianity so plainly and unmistakably as to make the use of a label not only superfluous, but almost ridiculous. But what of it? We must call ourselves something, and we don't want to call ourselves by any name that does not express just what we mean to be. Now we do mean our paper to be distinctively and positively Christian in methods, purpose, tone and spirit; and nothing but Christian. And we do mean in all things to subserve that genuine culture which in order to be genuine and true must be Christian. So what is left us but boldly to take the two much abused terms and link them together as our name, in the hope that by being true to it we may raise it up above the suspicion into which it has fallen, and regain for it the respect it well nigh has lost.

When we say that we intend being distinctively Christian, we mean not only that we shall rigorously exclude from our pages everything that is unchristian, everything that does not accord with Christ's divine charity and his human common sense; but also that we shall try in the spirit of Christian courage and Christian love to show forth the eternally True and denounce the false; to aid and encourage the eternally Good and discountenance and oppose the evil; to discover and cultivate the Beautiful, material and spiritual, and expose the essentially ugly, however disguised and however popular it be. In a word, we purpose to advocate and help whatever is essentially Christian in our church life and work, and to ignore all that is merely sectarian or traditional; whatever makes for righteousness in our political, educational, and social life, in our science, philosophy, art, and literature, and to disregard all that is merely partisan, narrow, and ephemeral expedient or fictitiously popular.

It is with this end in view, then, that not only our editorial pages shall be written, but that all our other departments have been planned. Our monthly sketch of what is doing in the Christian church at large, and especially in our city churches, schools, and benevolent organizations, will, we trust, arouse more general public interest in their work, and in a little degree at least counterbalance the full reports that are daily printed of what the spirit of self-seeking and crime are accomplishing. We hope the different churches and charitable societies of our city will see that we are trying to co-operate with each one of them, and will aid us by furnishing the material for this department



of our paper, and so help to make it thoroughly inter-denominational.

The department devoted to the history and antiquities of our city and county we feel sure will commend itself to all who have even only a spark of local patriotism and pride. Our city and county are not only among the oldest in the State, but also among the richest in historic associations, historic places and persons, and traditions of surpassing interest. How rich and broad is this field is most ably shown in the article on this subject from the scholarly and graceful pen of Dr. Dubbs. It is a field that has thus far been scarcely cultivated at all; mainly because heretofore there has been no publication in which such records could be preserved. CHRISTIAN CULTURE hopes to supply this long felt need, and to make its pages a magazine in which may be stored the fruit of the labors of local historians and antiquarians. We have already made provision for more than a dozen papers on different subjects of local interest and importance, every one of which will have a permanent value of its own, and be an original contribution to the historical literature of our State.

In our literary department we shall endeavor to keep our readers informed of what is going on in the world of books and book-makers, and hope to win the confidence and gratitude of our readers as guides both safe and conscientious through the jostling throng of current publications.

The ladies who have taken charge of the home department are themselves the best guarantee of the refined good taste and practical utility of the hints for parlor and kitchen which they will furnish.

From time to time we shall also publish original stories and poems, and an occasional puzzle, when we can get them fresh and of really good quality. It is our very earnest desire to encourage and promote local authorship, and we shall give it the preference whenever it can be done without departing from the high standard of excellence we have set before us.

Finally, we may sum up our aim in general as being this: to establish a first-class local journal—local without being narrow—that shall become the worthy organ for the expression of Lancaster's best thought and highest aspirations, in its church and home life, its literary and social circles, its business and professional spheres. In how far we shall succeed in realizing our aim depends largely upon the degree of sympathy, encouragement, and practical aid we shall receive from the intelligent and public-spirited portion of Lancaster's citizenship.

It is one of the curiosities of recent autograph sales in London that the signature of Voltaire brought only two guineas, while that of Isaac Watts sold for three. And while £10 were given for a letter written by Boswell, one by Johnson brought £9.

## BETTER PROSPECTS FOR THE INDIANS.

The confirmation by Congress of Gen. T. J. Morgan as Commissioner of Indian Affairs is hailed by all friends of justice, and of an enlightened Indian policy, with unalloyed satisfaction. Gen. Morgan seems to be a man exceptionally well qualified for the position. A native of Indiana, he resigned his professorship in a college there, at the outbreak of the civil war, to enter the Union army, and soon rose to the rank of brevet Brigadier General. After the war he studied theology, and for some years filled a professor's chair in the Baptist Theological Seminary of Chicago. Next he was for two years principal of the Nebraska State Normal School; received the degree of D. D. from Chicago University in 1874, and then went to Leipzig for further study. Returning, he was successively principal of the State Normal Schools of N. Y. and of R. I. He has been offered the presidency of three colleges, and is recognized as a fine scholar, good manager, and a true Christian gentleman. Mrs. A. S. Quinton, President of the Woman's National Indian Association, says of him, in a letter to the writer of this: "I have known him for twenty years, and he is an honest man, a true Christian, a fine educator, an efficient business man, and one with courage enough to obey his best convictions."

Gen. Morgan has elaborated a system of education designed to reach all Indian youth of school age now under control of the Indian Bureau. It is practically the American public school system, adapted to the special requirements of the Indian. It contemplates day schools, primary or home schools, grammar schools and high schools, so related that promotion can be made from grade to grade, and from schools of a low order to those of a higher. It is to be non-partisan and non-sectarian, and teachers are to be employed and dismissed solely on the basis of efficiency or inefficiency.

The industrial feature is to receive especial prominence, and particular pains are to be taken to equip Indian students for the practical duties of life. The "outing system," by which pupils are placed in white families and attend public schools, is to be encouraged wherever practicable. The fullest opportunity is to be afforded to any Indian youth who desires it to find a home among white people.

THE *Sunday School Times* has a way of putting things that makes even the tritest truths sound fresh. Here is a good example. The facts are old, but they are facts none the less; and most people would be better off if they accepted them in their practice:

"This world is so planned that a man can do more for himself by doing his full share for God. He can accomplish more, for example, in his daily business in six days than he could in seven—if the seventh day be devoted to rest and worship. Nine-tenths of his income will be a surer support to him than ten-tenths would prove—if the other tenth be religiously devoted to God's service. The world's adage, 'Prayer and provender hinder no man,' has its basis in this truth. The one portion of a man's duty that can least safely be neglected by him is the portion that belongs distinctively to God."

LENT—are you observing it? How?



## CHURCH DOORS SHOULD STILL STAND OPEN.

ALFRED AUSTIN.

Church doors should still stand open, night and day,  
Open to all who come for praise or prayer,  
Laden with gift of love or load of care,  
Nimbused with gold or flaked with locks of gray;  
Mother, or snow-white bride, or pallid clay,  
The blithe, the sad, the uncomely as the fair,  
Each on his secret errand wending there,  
Nor even the mighty and strong be turned away.

—Spectator.

## Work in the Vineyard.

*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations; but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*—1 COR. xii. 4-6.

(The church list is arranged alphabetically. Contributions are solicited from all the churches of the city, and should be received by the 20th of each month.)

## EPISCOPAL.

*St. James'.*—The newly-elected rector, Rev. Percy J. Robottom, of Towanda, Penna., is expected to take official charge of the parish immediately after Easter. He is quite a young man, having been ordained into the ministry only four years ago.

*St. John's.*—A Musical Association has recently been organized, and Prof. Wm. B. Hall chosen instructor. The class numbers over sixty. It meets for instruction every Tuesday evening.

On Sunday evening, February 23, the J. O. U. A. M. attended divine service in this church in a body. The rector, Rev. J. Edward Pratt, preached a sermon on the text, "Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, and fight," from 1 Samuel, iv. 9. The attendance at the service was very large, and all seemed interested.

The Sunday-school of this parish is rapidly outgrowing its accommodations, although they are among the largest and best in the city. It is becoming a serious problem now to find room for the children.

Mr. Herbert Coho, who was for a long time the very excellent Treasurer of the Sunday-school, having lately resigned on account of his removal from the city, Mr. Melvin H. Rathfon has been unanimously chosen by the Teachers' Association to fill the vacancy.

During Lent services are had every day in the week except Saturday, and are well attended.

The annual visitation of the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Rulison, is appointed for Sunday evening, March 23d, at which time the rite of Confirmation will be administered to a class of candidates now under instruction.

## LUTHERAN.

*Christ.*—It will be ten years in April, since the present pastor, Rev. E. L. Reed, took charge of Christ Church. The event is to be celebrated by a reunion of all the surviving members who have been added to the church since 1880, by confirmation. Each member will receive notice of the occasion by card, with announcement of time and nature of service. It is hoped all will participate in the Lenten services, and the Easter communion.

The pastor's catechetical class meets every Friday

evening; a goodly number attend. Those who cannot meet on Friday evening, will please meet the pastor at the church each Lord's day from three to four o'clock, for special instruction with a view to confirmation at Easter.

The *Helpers* are proving such in many ways by their readiness to do parochial work, and informing the pastor of persons in distress and of others needing attention.

The recent concert by the Choral Society at the Court House was a success in every way. This evidences that the society need not go abroad for talent, but simply develop its own resources, in order to success. The Choral rehearses every Thursday evening, and is preparing for a concert to be given in the church in April.

The Normal Class in the Sunday-schools of which the Superintendent, Prof. R. K. Buehrle, is the teacher, has done efficient work in supplying vacancies in classes, the teachers of which were temporarily disabled by the grippe. Besides this class the Superintendent also teaches a general class, for all who wish to attend, in one of the rooms of the church immediately after Sunday-school.

*Grace.*—The thirty-fifth anniversary of Grace Sunday-school was appropriately observed on Sunday, February 23d. The school is in a flourishing condition and doing excellent work. The teaching force of the school was never stronger or more practically effective than at present.

The Young People's Society has been doing excellent work during the winter. The aim in opening the lecture room of the church during the week-day evenings is to give to our young people a love for their church home and to cultivate in them a taste for all that is best in life. At the same time there is thus offered the opportunity to forsake the street and places of questionable amusement for the pleasant associations of the house of the Lord, and the refinements of musical and literary efforts of the best sort. Much can be accomplished in this way by inviting, and bringing in others to our meetings.

The editress of the society's paper would be happy to receive the contributions of all who have anything they wish to say, in the way of information, suggestion and improvement.

Those who had the good fortune to listen to the "Lecture" or better, perhaps, narrative of personal exploits during a trip West, given by Mr. J. J. Habecker, of Philadelphia, at the Court House, on February 20th last, will doubtless all agree that it was one of the best and most enjoyable of the kind we have ever heard.

*St. John's.*—A committee has been appointed to take subscriptions for the new church edifice. The building committee went first to Philadelphia and afterwards to Shippensburg, to inspect a number of model structures. The ladies are working to furnish the new building. The Sunday-school will furnish the chapel. The young people have organized a society to work for the organ. They will give an entertainment on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, March 11th and 13th, called the "business men's jubilee" for this benefit.

Ralph Bingham, the boy orator, gave such universal satisfaction that it is likely he will be secured to come again in the Fall.



The choral society is doing good work, under the leadership of Profs. Zimmerman and Haas.

*St. Stephens.*—The pastor, Rev. E. Meister, is making the Wednesday evening services specially appropriate to the Lenten season.

The Sunday-school is already rehearsing its Easter music.

The newly elected members of the church council were recently installed into office.

The Ladies' Aid Society last year contributed \$117, and the Sunday-school raised \$287.40.

The concert which will be given this month, under the auspices of the Young People's Association, promises to be an exceptional musical treat.

*Trinity.*—The contributions of the Sunday-school for Home Missions in the Northwest, made on the fourth Sunday of every month, amounted to \$131.60 during the past half year. This is at the rate of over a thousand dollars per annum for all causes. The school has regularly supported a native catechete in India for years.

The young people's literary circle has been making astonishing progress in the art of Shakespearian reading. The recent rendition of "Julius Caesar" was one that need not be ashamed of comparison. Such exercises foster in the breasts of the members the spirit of self-confidence, which is a very important element of success in life.

The Junior Missionary Society's charming impersonation of "Liberty in colloquy with the foremost Nations of the world" was the most unique and beautiful entertainment ever given in the chapel. The ladies who represented China, India, Russia, Scotland, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Germany, Mexico, Ireland, France and the United States, took their respective characters so perfectly that it would be impossible to decide which would have been awarded the prize, had there been one offered. Each of the ladies was dressed in the native costume of the country she represented, carried its national flag, and was introduced by the music of its national air. The whole affair was a notably dignified, instructive and delightful evening amusement. Announcement was made that it will be repeated, with a number of additional features, during the Easter week.

The catechetical class numbers between forty and fifty persons. Confirmation will be administered on the last Sunday of this month. This is the service when new members are also received by certificate of transfer.

It is probable that Easter Sunday will be ushered in by an hour's special service, chiefly of song, shortly after the morning dawn. "At the rising of the sun" was the time when those loving hearts went to the empty sepulchre on the first Easter day, and there could be no more fitting way for us to begin the great festival than by an early service of thanksgiving and praise.

Vesper services, of a half hour's duration, are held in the chapel during Lent every Monday and Friday at five o'clock, in addition to the regular mid-week service.

The annual series of Sunday evening historical sermons is now in progress for this year. The theme is "Scenes and events in the life of the Apostle Peter."

Mr. Walter Bausman's class in the study of vocal music meets in the chapel every Tuesday evening.

*Zion's Lutheran* was organized in the year 1827. When it became necessary to introduce the English language in the services of the Church of the Holy Trinity, a number of its members, separated from the mother church and organized themselves into an exclusively German congregation. A piece of ground was secured adjoining the grave yard of Old Trinity, and the corner-stone was laid for the first church in April, 1827. The building was finished in 1828. As the membership increased and extensive repairs became necessary, it was resolved to tear down the old church and to build the present larger and more commodious edifice, which was finished and consecrated in 1873. In the following year the present pastor, Rev. F. P. Mayser, was called. The new church left a heavy debt on the congregation, which, however, has steadily decreased by a systematic method of contributions by the members. It has a well organized Sunday-school, a Ladies' Society, and a Young People's Society, which has recently sent a neat little sum to the missionaries in India for the purpose of educating a boy in the mission schools there. Since the new edifice was erected the congregation spent considerably over \$100,000 on its new building, for current expenses and for general benevolent purposes.

*Moravian.*—During February the pastor preached a series of Sunday morning sermons on "Bible Pictures."

The choir has been strengthened by the addition of over a dozen young voices under the special training of Prof. Carl Matz.

Two weddings were held in the church last month, that of Mr. J. L. Steinmetz, Esq., and Miss Mary Virginia Hawthorne, on February 5th, and that of Mr. Robert Seaber and Miss Minnie Greiner, on February 26th.

An interesting class of catechumens meets in the lecture room every Thursday evening, preparatory to confirmation on Maundy Thursday.

The Lenten lectures held every Wednesday evening since Ash Wednesday are very well attended.

The Ladies' Home Mission Society has undertaken as its special Lenten work the fitting out of several barrels of clothing for the use of the mission in Alaska. Good, warm, second-hand clothing will be thankfully received for this purpose by the ladies of the society.

A Ladies' Aid Society has been formed to raise funds for the renovation of the church in the near future.

There exist three Circles of King's Daughters, one of King's Sons and a similar organization called the Peter Boehler Association, among the young people of the congregation, and all engaged in distinctly Christian work.

On the evening of February 22d, Mrs. H. C. Ricksecker's "Sunshine Circle" of about thirty wee little folks gave a delightful entertainment, consisting of music, recitations and tableaux, in the parlor of Mrs. Mary Erisman, on West Chestnut street. A neat little sum was realized which is to be used for missionary purposes.

The Sunday-school has given its half-yearly Missionary Box to the Alaska mission work. The amount was \$58.



## PRESBYTERIAN.

*First.*—On Sunday, Feb. 16th, Dr. Mitchell was ill and the Rev. John W. Rumble supplied the pulpit. He preached an excellent sermon.

On Thursday, Feb. 20th, the Young Ladies' Missionary Society gave a very successful musicale. They were assisted by the College Glee Club and local talent. A large and cultivated audience was present.

Two missionary boxes have been sent out lately by the Young Ladies' Missionary Society; one to Mars, Pa., valued at \$120.00, the other to Park College, Mo., valued at \$62.96.

*Memorial.*—This congregation has recently purchased the lot adjoining its church building. The price paid was \$1,650, subject to a mortgage of \$1,000. The lot measures 37 feet on South Queen street, running through to Beaver street. The trustees have removed the unsightly fences and outbuildings that have disfigured the surroundings for a long time. The lot will be sodded and laid out in flower beds, which will add greatly to the appearance of the church property. The movement to purchase the lot was inaugurated by the Ladies' Aid Society.

The church, with the co-operation of the Sunday-school, has decided to purchase a new organ. The collection on Children's Day will be devoted to that purpose.

## REFORMED.

*First.*—This congregation was organized in 1736, and has now a history extending over a period of one hundred and fifty-four years. It was the first congregation to erect a church building in this city. Its membership at present is about four hundred and twenty. Its Sunday-school was organized in 1832. It is at present under the directorship of Elders J. B. Roth and Hiram Stamm, and is in good condition. There is also connected with this church a flourishing missionary society which meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The services at these meetings consist of prayer, singing, reading of the Scriptures, select readings, recitations, and an address. They are usually well attended and of an interesting character. Catechetical instruction is given every Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon between the first of November and Easter.

During the season of Lent, besides the regular Lord's day services, services are held every Wednesday and Friday evening. This year Dr. Titzel, the pastor, is lecturing during this season on Christ's messages to the churches as given in Rev. ii. and iii. During holy week services will be held every day.

*St. Paul's.*—This church celebrated its fortieth anniversary a fortnight ago. Sermons appropriate to the occasion were preached by Rev. F. A. Gast, D.D., Rev. J. H. Lechler, Rev. D. E. Klopp, D.D., Rev. J. A. Peters, D.D., and Rev. H. Mosser. All the exercises were largely attended. Twenty persons were added to the membership. It was a season of great refreshing to the congregation and the many church people of the city who were present.

The church has a flourishing choral society of nearly one hundred voices, and is alive and active in all the departments of its work.

## INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

A Lancaster Women's Indian Association, auxiliary to the Women's National Indian Association,

was organized during the last week in January in the lecture room of the Moravian church. Mrs. A. S. Quinton, of Philadelphia, President of the National Association, was secured to deliver a lecture on February 10th, on "The Indian Question from the Christian Standpoint." A large audience greeted her in Trinity Lutheran chapel, and so effective was her address that a number of new members was at once secured, and a lively interest aroused in the work of educating and civilizing the Indian. The local association meets in the Moravian lecture room on the third Saturday of every month, at 3 P. M. The association has a variety of literature, full of interesting facts and incidents explanatory of its work and aims, which any one interested in the subject can have upon application.

## Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

The committee for the selection of new books for the Library will be organized soon.

The Association realized \$427.57 at the recent Library fund supper, which amount will be used in the purchase of new books.

The Association celebrated its twentieth anniversary last Tuesday.

The gymnasium classes, which are held Thursday and Friday evenings of each week, are growing in interest.

The young men of our churches are urged to lend their influence to the Association in its work of lifting up young men and leading them into a higher life. The training classes and the young men's Sabbath meetings, held every Sunday at 3:30 P. M., are open to all young men.

## BIRTHDAY HYMN.

(An unpublished poem of the late Rev. E. E. Higbee, D.D.)

What heart can feel, or tongue declare,  
O God, how great thy mercies are!  
Year fathoms year, and every hour  
Proclaims thy boundless grace and power.

In every pain that mars my peace,  
How precious is Thy smiling face!  
Griefs are but joys, and sweetly prove  
The depth and fervor of Thy love.

In every want to Thee I cry,  
And quick Thou sendest rich supply;  
Loss turns to gain and makes me flee  
For rest and refuge unto Thee.

O, God, in love my life began:  
And tho' but narrow be the span  
From dawn to night—tho' every year  
But brings the silent grave more near,

Yet hope, immortal hope is given  
Of life, and rest, and peace in Heaven—  
Night turns to day—and glorious light,  
That comes from Thee, makes darkness bright.

The years glide not too swiftly on—  
I see far off the dazzling throne,  
And faintly hear seraphic strains,  
Which kindle joys and banish pains.

The golden streets, the crystal stream,  
And tree of life, how far they seem!  
Yet Father, by the pearly gates  
The interceding Saviour waits.

And soon, O blessed hope! Thy child,  
By boundless mercy reconciled,  
Shall all that Saviour's glory see,  
And find eternal rest in Thee.



## In Social Circles.

### LENT IN LANCASTER SOCIETY.

The season of Lent may be bad for the society reporter, but it is good for every one else. There is a general feeling of relief and grateful rest in social circles; and, while a few pretend to complain that the restrictions of the season are unnecessary, irksome, and hard to be borne, yet the great, sensible majority freely concede that Lent brings welcome and needed relief for body and mind. Neither the nerves nor the pocketbooks of most of us could bear the strain put upon them during the gay season if that season were kept up through more than a comparatively brief portion of the year.

It must be said, too, to the credit of the most of our society people that they enter upon the churchly observances of the holy season as fully and heartily as before they did upon those of social life. Not a few of them even go so far as to return to some faint reminiscences of the old-time custom of fasting. They deny themselves during Lent of this or that accustomed luxury of the table or the toilet; or they exercise themselves in some special work of charity.

There is one very popular luxury—at least it seems to be such to many—of which we should like here to suggest that all deny themselves as a special Lenten sacrifice this year. We refer to the popular luxury of *gossip*. Now that the parties and teas and receptions of the winter are over, stop picking and tearing them to pieces. Stop saying mean and envious things about those who entertained you or who were your guests. Make it a special Lenten exercise of self-denial to think and say no evil of any of them, and indeed of no one else. There are plenty of other things to talk about that are just as interesting, much more honorable to you, and far less cowardly, mean and unworthy of ladies and gentlemen. We make the proposal in all seriousness: Deny yourselves of gossip and slander as one of your special Lenten observances.

### "THE CLIO."

Lent does not and need not interfere with the bi-weekly meetings of the Clio Club, which is now in the eleventh year of its existence, and is as popular and doing as effective work as ever. To the wise equilibrium it maintains between the literary and the social elements in its membership and its exercises is mainly owing its longevity and success. The general subject upon which its studies this season are concentrated, Russia, has already called forth some exceptionally able and interesting essays, and stirred up animated discussion; while the prospects are that before the season is over the aggregate of work done will be fully up to the average of past years. A number of essays will have been heard from the pens of writers who had never contributed of their work to the club before. Such was the essay on "Russian Commerce," by Mr. Harry Dubbs, at the last meeting; and such will be Mr. Patterson's, on "The Crimean War," at the next meeting, at "The Maples," Mr. John C. Hager's residence, and Mr. McCamant's, at the second meeting of this month, to be held at the hospitable home of Capt. George M. Franklin.

### NOTES AND NEWS FROM OUR COLLEGE.

The city of Lancaster and Franklin and Marshall College have both come to the conclusion that their interests are mutual and identical. This happy consummation has been brought about partly by athletic prowess and musical glory. So harmonious has grown the feeling between town and gown that Lancaster society appropriates to itself, and rightly too, a certain share of the glory and fame won abroad by the college boys; while the latter consider this pride in them as taken by the city the highest compliment that can be accorded undergraduate spirit.

Next term another one will be added to this year's long series of innovations. The President of the Athletic Association at F. and M. has appointed a committee to arrange for a grand Field Day in the spring. The committee are gathering their forces together and promise is already given of a first-class program. An effort is being made to get Mr. James Robinson, the celebrated athletic trainer at Princeton College, to come over for a week before the games and give the boys a few points in sprinting, jumping, walking, etc. A number of events have already suggested themselves to the minds of the committee, and in all probability the majority of the following will appear: 100 yards dash,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile run, mile walk, potato race, sack race, knapsack race, running high jump, running broad jump, egg and ladle race, putting the shot, throwing the hammer, throwing base ball, 3-legged race, dropkick of foot ball, and obstacle race—the last named event, if chosen, will very likely be open also to boys under 16 years from the city of Lancaster. Gold and silver medals will be given in all of the events.

A joint glee club concert between the Franklin and Marshall and the Dickinson clubs, to take place in Harrisburg within the next few months, is now being agitated in certain circles.

Messrs. Dechant, Shriver and Irvine were elected to represent the Seminary at the Inter-Seminary District Missionary Alliance meeting, held in Chester, Pa., February 27th and 28th.

Our American colleges cannot become too much imbued with a literary spirit. Thanks to this year's glee club for the precedent it has set in this direction. May future clubs and the alumni in general make a practical application of the hint.

Were they afraid of us? We are inclined to think so. Our team was a youngster in years, but a giant in strength—a perfect marvel of an infant. Possibly Swarthmore and Dickinson had this in mind when they declined the invitation to enter a league with Haverford and F. and M.

The Glee Club will give its final concert for the year in Lancaster, on the evening of May 7. This will be an additional feature of Seminary Commencement week. President Irvine, who designs all the programmes for the club, intends to surpass all previous efforts, notwithstanding the fact that the programmes of the recent trips were everywhere pronounced more artistic than any ever seen in those places before. The May programme will have a special cut on the exterior, and inside will contain not only the names of the patronesses, and of the clubs and the songs, but will also have a "Glee Club Log," giving a list of all the concerts, serenades, etc., sung during the year.



## Local Lore.

### HOME STUDIES.

BY JOSEPH HENRY DUBBS, D.D., F.R.H.S.

Gaspar Becerra, the artist—in the legend to which Longfellow has given a poetic setting—toiled long but vainly to form a beautiful statue out of precious materials that had been sent to him from distant lands. Disheartened by failure he sat gazing at the fire on his hearth, when suddenly, while half-asleep, it appeared to him that the smouldering back-log had assumed the form of his ideal. In an instant he had quenched the brand, and in the first glow of his enthusiasm he shaped it into the work of art that gave him fame and fortune.

The lesson of the poet is: "That is best that lieth nearest." It is a lesson which is but rarely studied; for we are naturally inclined to undervalue the things with which we are most familiar. When a man becomes great, it is said, the last persons to recognize the fact are his family and neighbors. A man who was told that one of the friends of his youth had been nominated for the Presidency of the United States, remarked: "He can't be fit for President—why I went to school with him!"

It must be partly on such grounds that the study of local history and science is so little esteemed. To become familiar with the history and institutions of foreign nations is held to be essential to a good education; but knowledge of the community in which we live is regarded as of little importance. We do not mean to say that the peculiarities of foreign nations should not be studied; but we feel certain that the best foundation for such knowledge is a thorough acquaintance with our own people. Some of our best educators hold that children ought first to be made familiar with the history and organization of their own town or township; then with that of the county and State. When they have been well trained on subjects, such as these—with which they become familiar almost without an effort—they are ready to study themes of national significance.

It may be said that such studies lead to pride; but it should not be forgotten that their neglect may lead to an opposite extreme which is no less objectionable. "Self-love is not so vile a sin as self-forgetting." To accept divine blessings without caring to know the channels by which they came; to allow our fathers to be despised and maligned by strangers, because we are willingly ignorant of their noble work; this, too, is a sin in the sight of God.

In our schools and literary institutions such matters receive very little attention. Our boys know all about the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock; but how few of them have heard of the dreadful French invasion of the Palatinate which caused their ancestors to leave their native land. Are these things as they should be? If we are dissatisfied that, as a community, we are constantly misrepresented, ought we not to make an effort to apply the proper remedy?

The field is certainly sufficiently extensive. Lancaster is situated in a region which, for fertility and prosperity, is celebrated throughout the land; but we are, however, often pained to observe that the admiration which is so freely expended upon it is mainly

superficial. When strangers attempt to relate our history, or to depict our social life, it becomes evident that they do not understand their subject. The theme is fascinating but it cannot be properly handled by every literary workman. It demands not only study but affectionate sympathy.

The study of our history and social life is rendered difficult by the various elements which have successively entered into its composition. It would, for instance, be much easier to write out the history of a community in Virginia, or New England, where all the original settlers were of a single type. Here we have had a succession of waves of immigration, each of which is worthy of earnest and minute study. First, we have the Swedes and the French traders, who passed away leaving hardly a trace behind them; then the English, represented on the one hand by the Quakers and on the other by the colonial gentry; then the Scotch-Irish, or Ulster Scots; a few Huguenots; and simultaneously the Germans and Swiss, most numerous of all, but greatly divided among themselves by national and ecclesiastical distinctions, whoever would learn to know Lancaster county must study all these various elements. They furnish the threads out of which our social life is woven.

It is said that our county has a larger number of separate religious denominations than any other district of equal size in America, and perhaps in the world. Each of these has, no doubt, peculiar excellencies; but its field and influence are necessarily circumscribed. Each has produced men of eminent ability; but their names are hardly known beyond their own immediate circle. Here is a field which has never been properly cultivated. Let our intelligent young men not only become familiar with the history of their own church, but study that of other denominations of Christians. If this were done in the true spirit of Christian brotherhood, the results would be astonishing. Materials would be accumulated from which the history of our social life might be easily composed. It is only by Home Studies of this kind that Lancaster county may at last secure the honor which is her due.

All around us are scattered the materials of study. Means of culture are at hand, if we will but use them. Some of us may discover abundant objects of study in the fields and flowers; others will find in our history and social life a never failing source of pleasure. In each case, "that is best which lieth nearest." Nothing is too insignificant to command the attention of the faithful student. Our history is obscure—let us illuminate it! Our most cherished customs have been ridiculed by strangers; let us study and explain them, and in many instances they will be recognized as beautiful. Folk-lore, legends, and even superstitions are in these days regarded as furnishing precious material to the historian.

CHRISTIAN CULTURE proposes to become an organ to those who labor in this interesting field. On its pages, as in a royal treasury, the gathered fragments of our local history will be sacredly preserved. For those who pursue Home Studies, and thus advance the cause of Christian Culture, this periodical will always have a word of appreciation and encouragement. In this work let all help who can! Some can furnish interesting contributions; others can gather subscribers; all can give good feeling and good words.



## MY LIBRARY.

All round the room my silent servants wait,—  
 My friends in every season, bright and dim,  
 Angels and seraphim  
 Come down and murmur to me, sweet and low,  
 And spirits of the skies all come and go  
 Early and late;  
 From the old world's divine and distant date,  
 From the sublimer few,  
 Down to the poet who but yester-eve  
 Sang sweet and made us grieve,  
 All come, assembling here in order due.  
 And here I dwell with Poesy, my mate,  
 With Erato and all her vernal sighs,  
 Great Clio with her victories elate,  
 Or pale Urania's deep and starry eyes.

—Bryan Waller Procter.

## Our Book-Shelf.

*The one grand necessity in reading is to be vigilantly, conscientiously select, and to know everywhere that books, like human souls, are actually divided into what we may call sheep and goats,—the latter put inexorably on the left hand of the judge; and tending, every goat of them, at all moments, whither we know, and much to be avoided.*—CARLYLE.

The task of keeping one's book-shelf in order is perhaps not the easiest in the world; but, nevertheless, it has to be done. That it is so often neglected is inexcusable, and is the cause of much evil in the world. Of course I don't refer only to the work of keeping the outside of it in order, the dusting, airing, and proper arrangement of the books, though that, too, is something not to be sneered at. About twice a year, during "house-cleaning," I am told that there is no harder work in the whole domestic turmoil than just that, and I usually agree with the assertion before the job is finished. What I am now talking about, however, is another kind of dusting and airing and rearranging; and that is what I am to do with OUR BOOK-SHELF.

First of all, and this is not the least important part of the work, I am going to take every opportunity I get to bring out, from under the dust of years perhaps, the old master-books, the great good books, that everybody talks about and pretends to be acquainted with, but which, nevertheless, are too seldom read nowadays, too often left to be neglected and covered with dust, while the best places on the shelf are given to insignificant, ephemeral stuff that is not literature at all, in any true sense of the word. I'm afraid there will have to be a good deal of that kind of dusting done.

And with it there will have to be considerable rearrangement. As long as I have anything to do with it, OUR BOOK-SHELF is not going to give Haggard a higher and better place on it than Homer, or Dobson than Dante, or Morris than Milton. In fact there are not a few books which, by the literary fad or fashion of the hour, are offered for OUR SHELF, and presume to demand a prominent place on it, too, but which I simply will not put on. They may be popular, but that is not enough to give a book a place in the library; it is not even enough to give it a claim to be read or noticed at all.

There is one book, published only the other day, which I have put on OUR SHELF, and which ought to find a place on the shelves of every citizen of Lancaster who takes any interest in the city's higher intellectual life. I refer to Dr. Theo. Appel's *Life and Work of John Williamson Nevin*, a Lancaster book in every respect, and worthy of Lancaster.

Written by a local author, it is a distinct and valuable addition to the high class literature that has from time to time been produced in this community, and should help very palpably to gain for our city the recognition she deserves in the literary world; for as a piece of theological biography, if I may use the term, it must be given a high place. Such biography is exceedingly difficult to write, dealing as it does comparatively but little with external events, but giving the whole inner history of its subject, his mental development from childhood to ripe old age, and presenting us with a very comprehensive epitome of his work as preacher and teacher, as philosopher and theologian. Dr. Appel certainly has fulfilled this difficult task with much skill and taste, and with eminent success. As far as the printing and binding, and the whole mechanical make-up of the volume is concerned, nothing but praise can be given. It is first class work in every respect, a credit to the publishing committee, and a credit to the local printers and binders.

But all that is not the main reason why every intelligent citizen of Lancaster ought to have it. Its importance, of course, lies in the greatness of its subject; and its special interest to us in the fact that he was a fellow-citizen of ours. We are proud that Lancaster was the home of a Buchanan and a Stevens. The time is coming when we will be equally proud of its having been the home of Nevin. It is true the former were more prominent in the political history of our country than the latter, but who shall say that his influence upon the thought and life of the world has not been as great and as important as theirs?

Certainly in theology the name of Nevin will stand second to none in the country when once the enduring records shall be made out. Already it is honored, in foreign lands even more than at home, as that of one of the few who have contributed thought of original and permanent worth to theological science. As such he belongs to no one party or denomination, but to the whole Church of Christ, and to no one city or county, but to all the world.

It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that this work is of interest only to theologians. To them, indeed, it is a precious volume, and Dr. Gast's introductory chapter a source of special pleasure and an object of particular admiration; but throughout the nearly eight hundred pages there are scenes and incidents, events and experiences of a personal nature, besides many more of a general historic interest, that must prove entertaining even to the most disinterested reader. Touching incidents there are relating to his childhood days; thrilling scenes out of his experience as an abolitionist long before the war; and exciting episodes of the stirring days of the great "Anxious Bench" controversy.



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The recognition of the original demand made upon it, and of the trust that was placed in it, has remained the motive and aim of the school.

The requirements of modern times in the matter of school appointments and comforts, and of a more extended course of study, have been heeded. It means to be a safe, happy and comfortable school-home; to keep itself abreast of every actual advance in educational progress; to bear in mind its responsibility to parent and child, and its accountability to God in whose providence children may be entrusted to it to be taught and trained; to watch carefully, affectionately and sympathetically over the individual scholar; to use thorough and rational methods in teaching, and to see that each pupil has justice done to her, and that she does her duty; to care more for actual mental growth and genuine scholarly culture than for showy accomplishments or the many educational shams and delusions of the day. The Graduating course is based upon the Harvard Examinations for Women, and in the Post-Graduate course some of the best, and in our view most important, results of a college education are presented, but the Seminary makes no claim to being a college as the term is correctly understood.

The buildings are commodious and specially cheerful, are heated by steam, and provided with hot and cold water. There are ample play-grounds and there is a gymnasium and play-room. The system of domestic arrangements is, in some respects, peculiar, being necessitated by the purpose of the school to be faithful to its claim as a safe place to which to send a child. Intending patrons are referred to the annual circulars, and are invited to make a personal examination of the school.

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