



The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT
Minister



Therefore every scribe who is instructed in the kingdom of heaven, is like an householder who bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old. Matthew 13:52.



Easter Day
Morning Worship

Doxology and Invocation
Psalm 24
Anthem "Mightiest King of Kings"
Scripture Lesson
Hymn 33
Creed and Gloria
Anthem "He Lives Again"
Scripture Lesson
Anthem "Ring, Ye Bells of Heaven"
Prayer
Anthem "Hail The Easter Morn"
Offering
Hymn 104
Sermon
Hymn 64
The Lord's Supper
Benediction

"Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened to us the gate of everlasting life; We humbly beseech thee that, as by thy special grace preparing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee forever. Amen."

Meeting Tonight at 7:30

The Young People will observe the Easter Season with a program of music, a religious Playlet called "Thanksgiving Ann"; and other parts. A chorus of 25 will sing several numbers. The public is invited.

The Young People will present their play "Lighthouse Nan" on the 30th of April, one week from next Tuesday evening, in the Central school building. Tickets are on sale at 30 and 15 cents. Proceeds go to the church.

The Session reported to the Presbytery a church membership of 178 and S.S. 122, and the total of all money raised and expended during the year \$2133.

The annual Reunion, on May 19th, is now only four weeks distant, and in the next issue we hope to announce something definite about the program other than it will follow the general plan of the preceding years.

We believe the Ladies will arrange to seat more persons at the luncheon so that visitors will not have to seek refreshment elsewhere. The charge for luncheon will probably be the same as last year, 40 cents.

It will be helpful to the ladies if word is sent in by those expecting to be present, that they may plan accordingly. Last year comparatively few notified them before hand, and they had not prepared for the 150 who came.

A postal to the Pastor or to others a week before time will be much appreciated by them.

Many have already indicated their purpose to attend, and their early notification to this effect will help greatly in promoting a large attendance.

A stirring example of the kind is this note from John Zulauf;--

"Enclosed please find my check for two dollars to pay for a year's renewal subscription to the Bulletin, the most welcome weekly visitor to my home.

"We are looking forward with happy anticipations to the reunion next month and another opportunity of greeting the dear friends, both resident and former residents of the old town we love so well.

"There will be five in our party all of whom desire to have dinner with you."

Mrs. James E. Loder conveys a lovely Easter greeting in this note, that explains itself:--

"I have at last copied the account of Jim Loder's and George Humphrey's 'haunts' in Sykes Gap. Before I was willing to send it to you I read it to Mr. Humphrey, asking him to verify the startling accounts of their doings. He tells me it is all true, even to his getting 'wet feet.'

"Am looking forward to meeting you at the Re-union May 19th, and wishing you and all your congregation the joys and blessings of a 'Happy Easter.'

(Dr. Loder's article written nearly fifty years ago be completed in next issue. It is a fascinating story for true lovers of nature).

By James Edward Loder. (About 1878)

I was born along the banks of the beautiful Delaware, and from my youth up had a great love for rambling along the banks of this beautiful stream, and in this way I became familiar with the country for miles around.

I removed to Oxford when I was about seventeen, and, being as it were a new country, it afforded a new land for explorations. The village of Oxford was then a small iron town of a couple of thousand inhabitants, though it was scattered so much that a stranger passing through the place would suppose that there were but a few hundred. The important part of the town was a large store which was the center of attraction from all quarters for business purposes, as well as for gossip.

I was employed at the time in the capacity of clerk. As there was nothing especially exciting about the town we boys often had to exercise our wits to find something to break the monotony of life.

About this time there came to Oxford a young man (whom we will call George, my own being Jim), whose love for pedestrian excursions--in fact for everything beautiful in nature--rivalled if it did not exceed my own nature. He had seen more of the world than I, had spent one summer in the Adirondacks and also had travelled in other directions. And as travel broadens a man's mind, his claim upon the surrounding country as accessible to pedestrians was unlimited. Heretofore I had been satisfied with a comparatively small scope of country, my walks had been limited to two or three miles, and had considered five as an extraordinary exhibition of pedestrianism to be talked about before and spoken of afterwards with pride.

Being easily influenced I was soon convinced that five miles was a small walk which any girl could accomplish; and if I wished to build up a reputation as a walker must go four times that distance, or twenty miles. As the accomplishment of any feat makes it seem less in our own eyes, even twenty miles, after a time, became an ordinary walk. Our ambition led us on to attempt even forty miles, which was accomplished.

But what I wish to speak of here relates to our expedition to Sykes Gap which was a particularly favorite

(over)

place of ours, being about three miles from the village. The place itself was certainly very beautiful, being an opening between two mountains about two miles in extent. You could enter at one end and come out at the other, making a very pleasant walk for anyone who enjoys nature unbroken by any scene that would indicate the presence of man.

Especially in the fall was it more pretty when the leaves were turned into the various shades, which nature's artist knows well how to arrange to make most pleasing to the eye. Being a solitary place, to anyone who is the least superstitious (as I believe everyone is more or less when put to the test) it was much more pleasant to have a companion.

There was a strange legend connected with the place which was written up by a friend of mine (this same George) and published some time ago in the semi-weekly "Tribune" which made it even more attractive to us. Now, as I said before I believe everyone is more or less superstitious; not that they believe in ghosts but that a certain feeling lying dormant can be engendered in them under conditions favorable to give them life.

If you can't do this the story that I am about to relate will lose half of its interest.

As our duties would not permit us to go away very often in the day-time, we were often obliged to go at rather uncanny hours, and at last we came to prefer midnight as the most desirable time to be there. Usually we started at about 10:30 P.M. so as to get comfortably settled and all fixed around the large fire which we would build. In our rambling through the Gap we accidentally stumbled upon a small place at the foot of the side of a hill partially enclosed by a wall extending around three sides, leaving the fourth side open to a place very favorable to build a fire. The three enclosed walls reflecting back the heat; and with a little alteration and addition--especially on the two sides so as to break the force of the wind sweeping up and down through the Gap--made an exceedingly comfortable place.

(To be concluded)

We are glad to add to our mailing list the name of Fred. E. Cook, an old Oxfordite who retains his affection to the old church and town. He lives in Phillipsburg.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

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Secretary MRS. EDMUND ORAM

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Choir

Leader MRS. E. T. GREEN

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