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The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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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.



They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. . . Isaiah, 40: 31

"Almighty God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Next Sabbath we shall be on Standard Time again. It will be a good time to begin regular attendance at Sunday School and Church services.

The Chicken-Waffle Supper will take place on Wednesday Evening, October, 2nd.

The Fall meeting of the Newton Presbytery will be held next Tuesday Sept. 17th, at the Alpha Church.

Our Fall Communion Service will be observed Sunday October 16th.

Mrs. Naomi Poole

Some Oxford Citizens recently visited Mrs. Naomi Poole at the Masonic Home in Burlington. She was long a resident of Oxford and has a lively recollection of her life here. She taught school here more than fifty years ago, and doubtless some of her former scholars will read this with great pleasure.

She was received into our Church on Aug. 3rd, 1877, and was dismissed to the first Presbyterian Church of Scranton, Pa. Jan. 2nd, 1885. She came from the Lower Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church, Martin's Creek, Pa. Her father owned the farm now occupied by the Alpha Portland Cement factory. Her three children were born in Oxford. She will receive the Bulletin regularly, and we hope to hear from her.

In this country it is not often that one makes a religious pilgrimage, but such was recently our privilege.

It was to visit the site of the Rev. David Brainerd's famous mission to the Indians "in the Forks of the Delaware," at Martin's Creek, Pa. He began his work there in 1744, and labored for three years with remarkable success among the Indians and white settlers of the region. All the time he was ill with consumption from which he died at the age of 29. And yet his work there and at the same time at Crosswicks, N. J., together with his Journal became a classic in missionary annals. This Journal influenced such noted men as Wm. Carey, Henry Martyn, David Livingstone in their great undertakings. John Wesley had all his preachers read the book, and declared that if he had 100 such men of God as Brainerd, he could convert all of England in one generation.

Brainerd began his work at Martin's Creek just after Jonathan Robeson built the Oxford Furnace, and as he visited all the white people in the region there can be little question that at times he was a guest of Robeson in Oxford. We know he preached to the white settlers who formed Oxford First Church. At times too he invited the white people to come to his mission station, and preached to them all day. He says that they gathered there from a region of thirty miles around. It is quite probable that Robeson and his people would attend some of these great meetings.

Out of his mission there grew the Lower Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church and the large brick building erected afterward is still standing but unused. Not far from the church is the site of Brainerd's home, where he built a house Dec. 8th, 1744. This location is on the highland above the Alpha Cement Building in Martin's Creek. Near the place where his house stood a monument was erected in 1884 by the Brainerd Society, on which were engraved these mottoes:—"Here much of his remarkable Journal was written," and "A few rods north of this spot David Brainerd, missionary to the Indians, built his house."

Later the monument fell into great neglect but a year ago it was acquired by Lafayette College, put in good shape, and rededicated last February, with services conducted by the President of the College. It will surely be well cared for in the future, and as time passes will become better known.

Through the foresight, the initiative and the persistent efforts of Mr. Yount and Mr. Humphrey the plan to preserve the old Furnace as a memorial and historic relic appears to be on the way to be consummated.

Oxford's interests have been chiefly centered in iron, and having had two furnaces, it would therefore seem appropriate to review briefly the story of blast furnaces and also of iron.

The blast furnace is the key which unlocks nature's stores of iron for our use.

It is unique in having been unchanged in principle for several centuries and having no substitutes. It is the most complex in principle and the most difficult to operate successfully of any metallurgical apparatus, and its proper understanding probably requires more years of study than any other industrial operation. The success of Oxford's furnaces, at least after the Civil war period was due to the skilled workmen, such as Henry Harling, James Perry etc., who had had long experience in furnace operation.

Other minerals, such as gold and brass, etc. were used many years before iron was known and yet iron is one of the most common elements in nature. Geologists tell us that it comprises about 4.4 % of the earth's crust, and that the whole of the interior of the earth below a depth of a few miles is composed of iron. Strange enough, it is seldom if ever found in pure native form on the earth except perhaps in the form of meteorites which have fallen from space.

In the early centuries, the Greeks had discovered how to reduce the ore to make iron and the Romans learned it from them. The People of Great Britain had also found a way to produce iron, for when the Romans went to England they found iron works in the Forest of Dean.

In the year 1624 a little colony of Englishmen living at Jamestown, Va. built furnaces there on the banks of falling Creek and produced the first iron made on this Continent. This started the iron production in this country and it soon spread to the other states, as iron ore was being discovered in Mass. Conn. Rhode I. and New Jersey; and in the course of a very few years iron was common in the new world. Charcoal was the only fuel used--Oxford had its charcoal pits in the early days

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and I still remember two or three of them beyond Cat Swamp--in all the years until about 1880 when coke was developed, which is the chief fuel of to-day for smelting ore.

In the early days of the blast furnace it was the custom to allow the iron to run out in puddles in front of the furnace and then to cool, but soon this crude practice developed into making a runner leading away from the furnace and putting short lateral runners off from one side of it so as to make the iron into convenient shape for handling. The runner was rather crudely formed as were the lateral runners which were few in number. The general appearance of the whole arrangement was roughly similar to that of a sow with a litter of pigs. From this comes the name of 'Pig' iron, while the runner from which the individual 'pigs' are cast is known to this day as the "sow."

In 1784 Henry Cort invented the puddling furnace for the reducing pig iron by a coal heated process, and thus was produced what is known as Wrought Iron. It is made by taking pig iron as it comes from the furnace and placed on a platform or hearth of the furnace, and is heated until the iron begins to melt and the slag forms little pools on the bottom of the furnace. In about an hour the puddler stirs the whole mass with a long bar and by rolling it around he forms a ball weighing from 150 to 200 pounds.

When the ball is made it is taken out of the furnace, placed on a cart and rushed to the squeezers where all the impurities are squeezed out. Then it is put between rollers and rolled into plate preparatory to the making of nails. One of the interesting sights for Oxford people and visitors was to watch the process from the time the molten ball was taken from the furnace until it was rolled into plate.

So the old furnace is again to have a place in the sun. It had its day commercially and played a part at a critical time in our history by furnishing cannon balls to the Continental Army, and now stands as a memorial, giving mute testimony to the sagacity and wisdom of a past generation who had a part in the development of our great country. May it serve as a beacon to inculcate and to stimulate to this generation and those to come the principles and traditions upon which this nation was founded.



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A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

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