



284
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.



Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Exodus, 20:7

"Lord, work in my heart a true Faith a purifying Hope, and an unfeigned Love towards thee; give me a full Trust on thee, and reverence of all things that relate to thee... Make me diligent in all my duties, careful in my conduct and so moderate in all lawful enjoyments that they may never become a snare to me. May all my relations with my neighbors be controlled by charity and justice that thy good will may be known to all persons. Amen.

The Church of Christ is the most substantial institution in the world, as well as the oldest. During the depression there were many failures in business banks and corporations. But very different has it been with the churches.

A standard statistical firm, has said: "During these years one out of every six banks closed; one out of every twenty two businesses failed; one out of every forty colleges closed their doors; one out of every forty-five hospitals closed but only one out of every 52,344 churches was forced to give up."

Churches vary much in their zeal and activity from time to time, but they remain unshaken, for they are founded upon the Rock of Ages.

This church fifty years ago, like the town, was flourishing; large in membership and strong in personalities and wealth; it wielded a vast influence for good in the community and far and wide.

However greatly conditions have changed, the church still has a goodly band of devoted members who can be depended upon to make all necessary sacrifices to make the church efficient and influential. This church with the other churches in the community constitute a mighty bulwark of righteousness in this region. Our work is one of judgment and mercy for all, and the banner over us is love.

We have enjoyed looking through an old Scrap Book, compiled by the late Niels Peterson, and lent to us by his widow, now recovering from a severe illness. The scrap Book is made up largely of news paper clippings, beginning in the 1880s and continuing to recent years. Most of it is in the Danish language, his native tongue, and also in the German. But there are many clippings from local and nearby news papers. Especially articles about the industries of Oxford, some of which we have not seen before. There are some pictures of interest and value, in particular one of the old slave house near the old mansion house.

Mr. Niels Peterson was by trade a tailor and when he came to this place about 1880 he entered the employ of the local tailors, Joseph and Benj. Walton.

He made clippings of the notice of the death of both of these men, and we quote some sentences from the account of Joseph Walton, who died Sept. 1, 1901, in a Brooklyn hospital.

"Mr. Walton was born in England and came to this country with his twin brother, Benjamin, when he was a boy.

"He was a bright and genial man, warm hearted and sociable, made friends wherever he went and never was happier than when in their company."

In another death notice, his brother Benjamin, is said to have died in St. Johnsville, N.Y., but the year is not given. Both the Waltons were interred in Belvidere Cemetery.

We hope to copy some of the articles for the Bulletin in later issues, and the Scrap Book should be preserved for its collection of historical items.

Mr. Frank Hutchinson of Duluth, Minn., and G. B. Best, of Ironwood, Mich., were callers at the Manse last Thursday. They are iron men, and desired to see a picture of the old furnace as it was when last in operation. They were accompanied by our Mr. Carroll Meyers, who took down to view the remains of the furnace.

It is getting widely advertised, and will become nationally known before long.

One of the most humorous incidents of the old days occurred between two nailers, and the situation came about in the culmination of an argument as to the relative value and accuracy of their respective time pieces.

To begin with, it was something to rave about at that time to own a watch. It was the day-dream, with many wakeful night hours, of every boy to figure out how long it would be before he should become the proud possessor of a key winding, hunting case watch, and also a prominent chain with a fob that took up most of the front portion of his clothing; and then, when the precious time came to invest his earned savings in a ticker and accessories, the height of proudness was reached, and at that moment he became a member of an unofficial fraternity.

As could be expected, there was a keen rivalry as to who had the better time piece, and every man was willing to pit his pet watch with all comers.

And this leads up to the tense argument of the aforesaid nailers which attracted all the factory workers who surrounded the two men--John Booth and William R. Call, here-in-after known as John and Bill.

Some one happened to ask John the time and Bill being close at hand pulled his watch and as John gave the time Bill dissented and accused John of being way off.

Then the argument started. John said he would wager One Dollar that his watch was right and Bill put in a rejoinder that he disliked to take John's money, but just to take him down off his high horse he would take the bet. To settle the dispute as to which had the correct time, they decided to go to the railroad station and get the correct time from Andy Ryan.

In spite of the cold blustery day, when the biting wind swept down the valley and chilled one to the marrow, they valiantly kept on over the unprotected way which led from the nail mill to the station.

The two men proudly quickened their steps followed by most of the nailers who took particular delight in thrusting jibes at the two bettors, but at the same time anticipating the cigars that would be passed around by the winner.

Right into the station office John and Bill marched while the crowd waited impatiently out side.

One of the crowd suggested that after the cigars were passed around they should give three cheers for the winner and then march back to the factory two by two.

Time went by and finally the impatient crowd wondered why it took so long to settle the matter and even threatened to invade the office when their surprise they noticed Bill hurrying out of the freight house door and John was sneaking out of the back door.

The crowd yelled to them accusing them of being a couple of quitters and called for the winner to come back and treat them to the promised cigars. But there was no answer. Then some of the men pushed their way into the office and asked Andy "Who won the bet on the correct time?" After Andy came out of his fit of laughter he nearly bowled the crowd over by saying,

"They were both wrong. Bill was one minute slow and John two minutes fast."

We have before us a clipping about an organ in the Danish Church.

"To the Public. The congregation of Danish Lutheran Church of Oxford wish to express their thanks to the citizens of this place and to Mayor H.W. Alleger of Washington, for th kind and liberal manner in which they contributed to the fund to purchase an organ for the church."

The names of the local contributors: ranging in sums from \$5.00 to 25 cents, were as follows:

E. T. Lukens--C. B. Weston--Ezra Estler--
Jos. B. Winkley--Chas. Baumgartner--
Abram Pittenger-- Joseph Docker--
N. D. Kingman--A. J. Hyler--George Haycock--
Geo. S. Winkley--A. B. Winkley--J. W. Fox--
C. C. Weston--Peter Cook--Wm. L. Hornbaker--
Charles Kean--Philip Radle--E. C. Allen--
L. T. Stinson--G. A. Wildrick--Michael Hilbert
Walter Docker--L. W. Sharps--Tom Snyder--
A. M. Ryan--L. B. Hoagland--Bonn W. Hoagland--
Edwin Stout--George H. Weston--J. A. Allen--
P. T. Zapp--F. Fowler--Chas. M. Lanning--
James L. Wright--Theo. Cottle--L. C. Perkins--
W. P. Armstrong--Hans L. Peterson--C. M. Hobbs.

The date is not given but probably about 1890, judging from the names.

Had it been much earlier some of the Scrantons and others would have been on the list.



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