



The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH


OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT
Minister



Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.—Deuteronomy, 32:7.



Come and let us return unto the Lord
for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he
hath smitten, and he will bind us up...

Then shall we know if we follow on to
know the Lord. -----Hosea 6:1-3.

O Lord, grant us grace to live as
unto thee from day to day. Keep us from
sloth and idleness, and from the misuse of
those talents which thou hast committed to
our trust. Enable us to perform the several
duties of our state and calling with such
care and diligence that our work may
never be reproved in thy sight; and since
the needful business of this life is apt
to steal away our hearts from thee, give us
grace to remember that we have a Master in
heaven to whom we must render an account,
even our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

The evening prayer-meeting to night
will begin at 6:30 sharp. Let all keep
this in mind. Some can attend at that time
but not later.

The Christmas exercises of the Sunday
School are in preparation in charge of the
program committee, Misses: Alice Bell and
Frances Meyers. The time set is Dec. 23rd,
Monday evening.

There will be recitations by the child-
ren and Santa Olaus with his treats, and
Christmas Tree.

The Ladies Annual Fair and Chicken-
Waffle Supper took place last Wednesday
evening. The number of citizens and
visitors present was unexpectedly large,
but as bountiful provision had been made,
all found plenty to satisfy their appetites.

The Fancy Work and Candy tables were
sold out, so that nothing was left. The re-
ceipts for the evening amounted to \$200.00

The Prize contestants made their re-
ports as follows:

Mrs. George Devries-----	\$ 41.60
Mrs. Charles Anderson----	<u>26.80</u>
Total -----	68.40

The Woman's Sunday School Class
held a guessing contest for a fine quilt
they have been working on for some time.

This was won by Mrs. Anna Hoffman.

It netted them about \$7.00

To answer many inquiries about the progress of the old furnace plans, we can only state that we have no word from the director of the Commission for the past two weeks, when he explained that the architects were working on the plans for restorations, and that when these were finished there would be a meeting in Oxford, attended by the director, the architect, and a representative of the W.P.A. of the district, with local men interested in the matter.

The object of this council will be to consider the plans, and decide on ones to adopt; to estimate amount of money to apply for to the W.P.A., and to arrange for the part of the work to be done by the local Relief workers.

We have no intimation when this meeting will take place, but hope to hear regarding it before long. The nature of the winter weather may count in this arrangement.

In connection with the work of the local Relief force, we are glad to "point with pride" to the excellent things accomplished this past year. The hill leading to "Dutch Hill" has been straightened out at the sharp turn near the top, by cutting away the steep cliff, and the building of a stone wall at the base, so that it has been made safe and impressive as well more convenient because of greater width.

The improvement at the Public school house is most creditable to the Relief workers. The front terrace has been separated from the parking space by a fine stone wall, topped with marble-limestone from the Edison Quarry, with lamps to light up at night.

So we believe that the force will be well fitted to do most of the work on the furnace restorations.

Contributions to the Bulletin Fund and for mailing, are coming in steadily, and we have the pleasure to acknowledge the following since last report.

Patrick Kempsey \$2.00. He sends a copy weekly to his son in California.

Anton Peterson \$3.00. for himself and his daughter Mrs. F.W. Thomas, Irvington, N.J.

Miss Mary Odsted - Miss Elizabeth Doherty fifty cents.

Two weeks ago in noting the addresses supplied by Mr. Humphrey we by oversight failed to give the name of Mrs. J.E. Loder, of Philadelphia.

The Barlow Balls by George S. Humphrey

One day, sometime about 1876, a fine looking gentleman with his attractive wife appeared at the "Fowler House" and introduced himself as A.C. Barlow; he said that he had been appointed manager of the Pequest Furnace, then owned by the Cooper-Hewitt Company of New York, and that he wished to arrange board for Mrs. Barlow and himself for an indefinite period. Mrs. Fowler with her fine New England hospitality welcomed him cordially, and he and Mrs. Barlow were soon nicely settled in the south-east corner room on the main floor of the "Mansion" which then had, and no doubt still has, an outside entrance from the porch, as well as a door leading into the parlor.

He was, I should say in his forties, of athletic build and appearance, tall and wore a brown beard--quite 'the thing' in those days. He was very affable and soon won the admiration and friendship of all "us boys" who lived in the house. He was accustomed to walk back and forth from the furnace at Pequest every day, and in other ways indicated his fine bodily vigor.

We young men all felt the need of some regular physical exercise, and somehow, without any special effort on the part of anybody, a class was formed with Mr. Barlow as the "Director." After giving us some fundamental instruction and exercises in calisthenics without apparatus, he requested us to procure certain iron balls which were cast for us at the Company's foundry, of which Mr. John B. Smith was then foreman.

These balls were about five inches in diameter, cast hollow, with a hole into which a wooden plug was fitted. They weighed about six pounds empty; when it seemed desirable to increase this weight it was accomplished by removing the plug, putting in a proper amount of lead shot and again closing it.

Each boy had two of these balls. The object in using balls instead of ordinary dumb-bells, was that in order to hold one, the fingers must maintain a very firm grasp which naturally tended to strengthen the muscles of the hand, wrist and forearm. In addition to these small balls, we had one weighing twenty-five pounds, and the "stunt" being to lift it with the fingers pointed down. I believe that Fred Fowler, Will Cooke and Jim Loder were the only ones among us who could accomplish this feat. Perhaps it was in this way that "Jim" developed the strength of hand and wrist which was an advantage later in his profession as a dentist. (over)

Mr. Barlow instructed us in a system of exercises to be followed while using the balls which it is difficult to describe; but it was very effective and of great value to us all; even to this day, I occasionally practice some of the motions.

In addition to the 'ball' exercises, Mr. Barlow gave us lessons in boxing and fencing. We supplied ourselves with gloves, and in the basement of the Fowler House, which served as a gymnasium, we rigged up a 'punching bag' consisting of a flour sack stuffed with rags.

Sometimes our contests were pretty vigorous. In those days I was possessed with a pretty quick temper, and upon receiving an unusually hard rap from an antagonist, my temper would rise and, so far as I was concerned, the friendly 'bout' became a real fight. This became so unpleasant to the others that Mr. Barlow ruled me out of the sport and I became a mere spectator on the side lines.

Under Mr. Barlow's direction a number of wooden fencing foils were made for us at the pattern shop and exercise with these was added to our curriculum.

Besides these lessons Mr. Barlow suggested certain corrective exercises to some of us individually. I was inclined to stoop and carry my head forward when walking. To remedy this Mr. Barlow had a sort of horse shoe made of lead which was sewed inside my cap; when wearing it I had to hold my head up.

Mr. Barlow was a cultured gentleman, fond of good literature, and in many ways exerted a fine influence over us young fellows. I can't remember how long he remained in Oxford, nor have I ever known what became of him after he left. I wonder if any one now living in Oxford remembers him. I fear not.

It would seem that some of the "Barlow Balls" must be in existence, for they were too large and there were too many of them for all to be lost. I know that Fred Fowler took his with him to Hackettstown, but I think that all the rest of us left ours when we moved away. They can easily be identified as they are hollow, with a hole for the wooden plug.

The Christmas seals for the support of the County Tuberculosis work are now coming in. The money will all be forwarded to the Treasurer of the fund.



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