

*The*  
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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*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.*

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For, every one that asketh, receiveth and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened  
.....Matthew 7:7,8.

"Lift upon us the light of thy countenance, O God, that we may rejoice and be glad in thee; and send into our hearts the purifying gift of thy pardon, that our sins may be utterly removed from us, and that we may go forth with a clean spirit, a joyful courage, and strength sufficient for our needs to meet whatever thou hast appointed for us day by day. And grant us a grateful heart and steadfast hope, that we may walk in peace under thy Fatherly guidance. Amen.

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The Presbyterian Home for Old Folks in Belvidere has requested our Church to conduct the religious service for them this afternoon at 3.P.M. This is always a pleasure for us, as they make a most appreciative audience.

The Fall Communion Service will be held on Sabbath October the 11th.

Two preparatory services will be held in the Church on the Thursday and Friday evenings preceding it.

We urge a full attendance upon all these important services. Surely we all need this time of spiritual and prayerful waiting before the Lord.

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(from last page)

blowing engine at Oxford was evidently done earlier than I had supposed; my former impression having been that it was placed after 1860.

We may add that if this large engine was put in Oxford in 1856, then it may account in a way for the explosion that occurred in 1857, in which several lives were lost; the old walls of furnace not being strong enough for the increased pressure of the powerful new engine.

The doubling of the output would indicate so much.



Many of our readers may well think that too much space has been given to old historical notes. In explanation it can be said that there are two main reasons for this type of articles. One is that we take this matter seriously, as it will be increasingly valuable in the coming years, and we will have many more items of the same kind in the coming months. The other reason is that in the past two months apart from Mr. Weston, scarcely any one has contributed articles or letters of the more popular kind for general reading. But we have no doubt that they will soon begin to come in, and they will be given first attention. This is indicated by the following note from Mr. Humphrey just received:--

"This afternoon I had a 'Hunch' to write something about Oxford as I remember it sixty years ago, and so have perpetrated the enclosed which may amuse some of the 'old inhabitants.'" This will be printed in the next issue, and it will not only "amuse some of the old inhabitants," but every one who reads it, both young and old.

Mr. Weston, in his role as humorist, will have to look after his laurels.

Mr. Humphrey has just returned from a summer in the Adirondacks must be in excellent health and spirits, as he has written for the Bulletin twice in the past week, though he does not refer to this fact.

Now let many other "Old Timers" and new friends of our little paper send in articles and letters. We trust many will have "hunches" to this end.

Prof. Mary M. Belden, of Elmira, N.Y. writes to have her address in Elmira changed; which will be done. As a grand-daughter of the late Col. Charles Scranton, she has a real interest in Oxford affairs and people. She is on the teaching staff of the Woman's College, in Elmira.

We thank her for the personal word of encouragement.

Mrs. Elmer Pittenger sends a note with \$1.00 for the Bulletin, which is thankfully received. For a year or two past her health has not been very good. She lives in Washington, N.J.

Old Letter of Selden T. Scranton

Some weeks ago Mr. Humphrey sent us a rare old letter of S.T. Scranton, written when he was still living in Scranton, Pa. It is dated Dec. 5th, 1856, and addressed to James Selden Scranton, Stamford, Conn., his nephew and namesake, who was in a private school there.

It has an important historical reference to Oxford to be noted later in the comments of Mr. Humphrey.

"My Dear James.

My good boy Peter Carling has just come in with the mail, and among the letters rec'd, I am happy to find one from my dear nephew 'Jimmy!'. I am glad to learn by it that you are well and progressing pleasantly with your studies. Cousins Joseph and Oscar are now here spending their vacation. I think Oscar has greatly improved and has determined, if he lives, to be a man of some importance. They will leave for Andover next Monday a week. I suppose that you have heard that your father has had a recurrence of his old difficulty. I don't think it is as bad as formerly. He rode out today for the first time since his attack. He is in pretty good spirits, and I am hoping it will pass over soon.

I took dinner at your house today. William, I think, is getting stronger and better of his infirmities. What a pity it is that he can't prosecute his studies now. But I am in hopes that the time he is out of school will not be entirely lost to him.

Mr. Dotterer has resigned his office of Supt. and it is said Mr. Brisbin is to be his successor.

We have had this week quite a snow storm, but not enough to make sleighing. The valley is now pretty free and clear of snow, but the mountains are white. Cousin Artemisia Scranton is now spending a few days at our house. I believe she has nearly completed her visit here, and expects in a few days to go to Phila.

Uncle Henry and his wife aunt Delia, have just paid us a visit. They left for home yesterday. They will stop at Oxford, and spend Sunday at Doctor Lindley's in New York. They seemed to enjoy their visit here very much. (over)



The improvements in our village are progressing about as fast as usual. We are now putting up a large engine house to hold another pair of large engines for our furnaces.

The machinery is now coming on from Phila. We ship it per steamer through the Delaware and Raritan canal to Elizabethport when it will be transferred on to cars for this place. The new engine at Oxford Works (is) complete and is working a revolution. They are making about 60 tons per week--about twice as much as formerly.

I thank you for your letter and when you have leisure and inclination try it again. I am glad to get letters from you. Do your best this winter and be sure to make some improvement in goodness and knowledge every day.

With much love to all,  
Very aff'y, your Uncle., Se  
Selden

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Comments by Mr. Humphrey

" 'James, to whom this letter is addressed, was the second son of George W. Scranton, and at the time the letter was written was attending school at Stamford, Conn. Later in life he was the N.Y. representative of the Oxford Iron Co. under the name of 'James S. Scranton & Co. with store and office at 81, 83, 85, Washington Street. (N.Y. City). He frequently visited in Oxford and must be remembered by the older residents.

Mr Dotterer, I never knew, but remember my father speaking of him frequently. John Brisbin did become 'Supt' and later President of the D.L. & W.R.R., the immediate predecessor of Sam Sloan. I met him twice--once at Ithica and once at Oxford.

He was a lawyer by profession and adviser of B.G. Clark, Receiver of the Iron Co. after the failure.

'Uncle Henry' was the brother of Theophilus, father of George Selden and Charles. He was the father of Mrs. Ellen (Scranton) Fowler and grandfather of Martha and Frederick.

"The description of the way by which the engines for the Scranton works were shipped from Phila. is interesting. No doubt the Oxford engine came by the same route.

"The installation of the steam  
(see first page)



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