

The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT
Minister



Oxford Historical Record

Bulletin No. 467. June 11th, 1939

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

-----Revelation 14:6

"Almighty God in whom we live and move and have our being, open our eyes that we may behold thy Fatherly presence about us. Draw our hearts to Thee with the power of thy love. Lift our thoughts up to Thee in heaven, and make us to know that all things are possible to us by thy grace through our Lord and Redeemer. Amen."

To-night at 8 o'clock the Children's Day exercises will be given by the children of the Sunday School. The offering will be for the advancement of Sunday School work in the United States.

The State of New Jersey is to hold a special election on June the 20th, in order to decide on a proposed amendment to the Constitution so as to permit race track gambling, known as "Pari-mutuel betting."

The existing anti-gambling amendment was adopted in 1897, and prohibits all forms and kinds of gambling in the State.

The proposed amendment aims to retain all the forbidden kinds of gambling with one exception-- Race-track betting!

The plea for this inconsistency is that the "State shall derive a reasonable revenue for the support of government."

To our mind it is inconceivable that such a backward step will be taken by the people of the State, if all of them take the time to go to the polls and vote.

Philip W. Henry Honored

Mr. Henry writes:- I have read with much interest the reminiscences of Oxford by Messrs. Humphrey, Weston, Perkins, Loder and others; and I would like to join with them but unfortunately I have never had the kind of memory that recalls details; neither am I fond of writing. Besides I left Oxford when I was sixteen years of age to take a position on the engineering corps of the D.L. & W. on the extension of that rail road from Binghamton to Buffalo.

After spending three years on that road I had the opportunity to enter the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute which had been attended by William H. Scranton as well as my uncle Joseph J. Henry, both of Oxford. As my education at that time had been only that at the Oxford Public School, I spent several months in Oxford preparing for entrance examinations, particularly in geometry, under one of your predecessors, Mr. Cline. Due to his excellent tutoring I was able to enter without conditions; although I might explain that entrance requirements were not so strict fifty years ago as they are today.

I have always retained my interest in the Institute and was much pleased two months ago when the students put on selected scenes from my translation of one of the plays of Calderon de la Barca, a noted Spanish dramatist of the 17th century. I enclose a clipping of this event. I also enclose a copy of my remarks on the philosophy of Calderon before the presentation of this play which I feel sure you will appreciate, as it deals with the power that a man has over his own destiny. I regret very much that I shall be unable to attend the reunion on the 21st." (The letter was dated May 10th, Ed.)

The clipping is taken from the official paper of the Institute, Rensselaer Polytechnic, for March/ the 18th, 1939, and gives a prominent notice of the event. We quote in part:

" 'Life Is a Dream' written by Pedro Calderon, Spanish poet and dramatist, was presented at the RPI Playhouse last Sunday afternoon. This play, translated by Philip W. Henry, (class of 1887) was attended by over two hundred and

fifty members of the faculty and student body. Preceding the play Mr. Henry gave a brief talk and explained why he started his study of Spanish. He first became interested in the language during travels in Mexico, although he had previously journeyed over much of South America

Mr. Henry's address on the Philosophy of Calderon was illustrated by excerpts from the play, and we can give only the introductory paragraphs. They were as follows:-

"As the investigation of engineering and construction projects had taken me to Spanish-speaking countries I took up the study of Spanish in 1913, chiefly by the phonograph method combined with the study of grammar. For practice in reading I carried in my pocket--being a suburbanite-- various Spanish novels and plays with vocabulary attached, to read on the train. Among others I ran across 'Life Is a Dream' by Calderon, written in 1634, of whom I had never heard before. So interested was I in his philosophy that in 1921 I made a literal prose translation of this play. The next year I translated Calderon's 'The Marvelous Magician' and his auto Sacramental (morality play) 'Life is a dream' written forty years later than the play of the same name. After 1922 I did no more of this work until 1930 when I translated morality plays by Lope de Vega, Gabriel Tellez, Juan de Pedraza and Gil Vicente, the last one written in 1504.... Calderon's plays were in beautiful poetry and the only translation that has ever done him justice is that made by Shelley of several scenes from 'The Marvelous Magician.'

"Calderon's philosophy of emphasizing the power a man has over his own destiny is in striking contrast to the compelling force of heredity and environment, about which we hear so much in the present day. It would be idle to deny the strong influence of heredity and environment, but that is only half the story; for man is born with a will to overcome difficulties, if he will only use it. Much easier it is to take the easy (over)

course and excuse our faults as due to weak ancestors and unfavorable environment. By the exercise of will power, in which Calderon believed so thoroughly, the great men of the earth have overcome both these handicaps. Lincoln is a notable example.

"If one really wants to rise he must follow the precepts of Calderon who stated in more than one of his plays that while fate and the stars may incline the will, they cannot compel it. He believed that man could choose the right or wrong, that his will was free, but that it should be governed by his understanding."

Weddings in the Manse

On Saturday afternoon, June 3rd, Ida Lois Van Orden, of Morristown, N. J. and Willard Mott Repp, of Rockaway, N. J. were united in Marriage.

The bride's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Van Orden, and the bridegroom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Repp, and a nephew of our Mrs. Wm. Hornbaker.

Their attendants were Miss Edna Hax of Newark, and Mr. Walter Donahue of Rockaway.

On Sunday afternoon, June 4th, Emma Yaple and Ross Wilson, both of Wash. Township, N. J., were joined in marriage, in the presence of the bridegroom's parents and family and other friends. The attendants were Miss Blanche Knecht, of Phillipsburg, and Mr. Harold Christian, of Easton.

The Bulletin thankfully acknowledges receipt of the following subscriptions:
Mrs. Carl Loux \$6.00, for three years
Miss Phebe Lanterman and Miss Geneva Cooper, \$2.00 each; and Mrs. C. R. Wilson \$1.00.

Miss Rosalie Sarson relates of Miss Fannie Person, that "The Bulletin did bring her much happiness during her last years. Even after her mind was too beclouded to think or to converse she still clutched the Bulletin in her hand in bed--had it close to her all wrinkled and bent, but held tightly!" The many writers for the Bulletin will find a reward in this.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

ABRAM PITTENGER
EMMANUEL KELSKY

ELISHA B. FOSS
LEWIS BERGENBACK



Board of Trustees

JAMES RADEL
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.
FRED K. SARSON
BENJAMIN GREEN

HARRY MILLER
CHARLES RENNER
LEWIS E. GREEN
CHARLES DUX

HAYDEN DOCKER



Church Treasurer

LEWIS E. GREEN



Sunday School

<i>Superintendent</i>	E. B. FOSS
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	KENNETH BELL
<i>Secretary</i>	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Treasurer</i>	VIRGINIA ZAPP
<i>Organist</i>	FRANCES PITTENGER



Ladies' Aid Society

<i>President</i>	MRS. DELMAR GREEN
<i>Vice-President</i>	MRS. LELAND BAYLISS
<i>Secretary</i>	MRS. VIOLET BELL
<i>Treasurer</i>	MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN



Young People's Society

<i>President</i>	ALICE BELL
<i>Vice-President</i>	WILBUR JOHNSON
<i>Secretary</i>	JEANE ORAM
<i>Treasurer</i>	MRS. ELLA RITZER
<i>Organist</i>	FRANCES PITTENGER

