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The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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Minister



Oxford Historical Record

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures? ----Luke 24:32

"Almighty God, we praise Thee for the mercies which Thou hast bestowed upon us as a household, and we beseech Thee to bless all the families of earth with a Father's blessing. Look mercifully upon the solitary and the lonely, the weary and the heavy laden, and grant them rest to their souls. Pity and relieve the sorrows of all mankind. Shed the holy influences of the Lord's Day throughout our land, and keep our whole country, with those who are chosen to govern it, in the way of righteousness and peace. Finally we commend to the Thy fatherly goodness all who are near and dear to us, where ever they may be, praying Thee to watch over them, to provide for them in all their needs, through Thy bounty and grace in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

At the morning hour of worship last Sabbath the holy rite of Baptism was administered to Betty Lou, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gero. William Gero and Dorothy Shawcross were sponsors.

Cafeteria Supper Dec, 14th.

The ladies will serve a Cafeteria supper in the chapel on December 14th, Thursday evening, from 5 P.M.

They will specialize on their well known fried oysters, and other choice dishes.

If any one has things to contribute to the Xmas sale table, in the way of fancy articles or "white elephant" gifts that have been received in the past but could not be used; such things will be much appreciated.

A prize contest was planned and authorized persons selected and appointed contestants.

A Coincidence
by Mrs. Henry Zulauf

The Bulletin usually reaches us Saturday morning, and not many minutes pass until it has been read from cover to cover.

The following day after receiving the Bulletin in which Ed. Perkins wrote the article concerning Prof. Kluppelberg, (I was also one of his pupils) I was looking through a box of old pictures with my brother Alvin, when I found an old Autograph Album I had when a young girl, upon opening it the following greeted my eyes:-

"Let your life be like a snow flake, which leaves a mark but no stain." Yours Truly

F. Wm. Kluppelberg
music teacher

Hackettstown, N. J., Oct. 4th, 1884.

Wasn't that a coincidence? I feel it was a pleasure and a privilege to have been associated with a man of such sterling character in my young days. Another name of one I cherish is the Rev. E. Clark Cline.

It was he who baptized me, received me into the Church, married me and baptized my first baby.

Looking over the names written in my Album I find that nearly all of them have passed on. Five of them are still living and were at our last Reunion. They were Edwin F. Stout, Rosa Pittenger Stout, Millie R. Weston Tunison, Martha R. Shafer Everett, Dotia S. Hoagland.

(Mr. Perkins glowing tribute to the memory of Prof. Kluppelberg — or as he spelled it Kruppleberg — will be found, Bulletin No. 469, June 25th, 1939. It will repay a rereading)

Mrs. Zulauf was impressed by the coincidence of finding the Professor's autograph in her Album at the time of reading Mr. Perkins tribute in the Bulletin.

The Editor calls attention to another coincidence, in the notice of the death of Samuel Sloan in N. Y. City last Sabbath. It speaks of his father Samuel Sloan, about whom Mr. Weston wrote in the last Bulletin. And refers to the fact that he had been President of the D. L. & W. R. R.

Fatal Explosion, Old Furnace, 1857.
A letter from George W. Scranton.

The worst accident in the history of the old furnace occurred on Friday evening, Sept. 25th, 1857, in which four men lost their lives. We are fortunate in having an official and detailed account of it in this letter of G. W. Scranton, who was in N. Y. City at the time, and on Sunday evening Sept. 27th, at the Merchants Hotel wrote the following letter to his son James who was in a school at Stamford, Conn.

"My Dear James:-

I left home last Monday. Have been in New York since. It is very exciting here, and the end is not yet.

I hope we shall succeed in some arrangement for the relief of our R. R. Company, but upon this subject I will not write now.

"A terrible accident occurred at Oxford on Friday evening. The furnace had been stopped for some repairs about 15 hours. Gas had collected in the hearth and furnace during the stoppage, and when the blast was put on an explosion took place, which blew out the stopping in the front where the iron and cinders run out.

The hearth was nearly full of iron. The iron and cinder was blown out with great force, filling the casting house with liquid fire, and burning several men dreadfully. One man, David Reese, was burnt to death instantly. Two others died yesterday, and George Champion died last night.

It is feared one more will die. Uncle Charles was burned some, and Mr. Grove also, but not seriously. The casting house was burnt to the ground. The other buildings were saved. I cannot write more of the particulars, but you see what a stroke it will be to Mr. Champion and his wife (who went up yesterday), to find their beloved son so suddenly taken away, as well as to the other families at Oxford.

No blame is attached to any one. Uncle Charles had just been standing in front helping, and barely escaped with his life! A kind Providence has spared him, while others have been taken.

I expect to leave here for home on Wednesday morning. (over)

"If there is no objection I would like to have you come down Tuesday evening and go up with me, unless you hear from me to the contrary Tuesday forenoon. Please say to Mr. Rice that I will send him the amount of his bill as soon as I possibly can.

It's awful times for money. I enclose \$3.00.

"I shall expect your uncle Selden here tomorrow. Present my kind regards to Mr. and Mrs. Rice. Very affectionately your father.

George W. Scranton."

Mr. Humphrey has the original of the above letter, and sent the Bulletin a copy seven years ago, with the following comments:-

" I have been looking over some letters of Col. George W. Scranton, dated from 1843 to 1857, and enclose a copy of one written to his son James who was then at school in Stamford, Conn. While the first and last paragraphs do not refer to Oxford, they are interesting as indicating financial conditions similar to, or worse than those through which we are now passing."

It may be further explained that Col. Scranton's home was at Scranton Penna., and that the Rail Road he refers to was the D.L. & W. of which he had been the principle promoter, and was at this time the President.

Also, that the Oxford furnace was essentially owned and controlled by the brothers, George W. and Selden T. Scranton. This explains the deep interest in the explosion manifested in the letter.

"There is something about the history of the Bulletin," writes Mr. Weston, "that could never be written, though deeply seated in the minds and hearts of a large number of people, and that is the joy and happiness and comfort it carries into the homes of elderly folk; to invalids; to those former residents now living at a distance who are kept in touch with their associates of former days. And how it has been instrumental in bringing together old time friends that other wise would not have happened.

These are the things the full meaning of which cannot be expressed in words."



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