

Miscellaneous.

LEADING MEMBERS.

The following remarks, though applied specially to Baptists, are not inapplicable to other places. It is not uncommon to find members who seem to think that no one but themselves has the wisdom to know what is best, or the piety to choose it.

Did you ever, reader, in your experience in connection with Baptist churches, encounter a "leading member." Perhaps he was a deacon; or, perhaps he was a "leader" by virtue of his wealth or position in society. They are to be found scattered all over the country. Most generally they are selfish, narrow-minded, set in their own way, and as obstinate as a mule. They are imperious and domineering in their nature, and have somehow imbibed the idea that the church, including the pastor, is a sort of machine to be run by them and for them—that they are the engineers, and if anything is done contrary to their wishes and direction, there will be a general smash-up, which they will do all in their power to bring about. A pastor is regarded by them very much in the light of a "hired man"—an under-servant, who is to speak and act as they may dictate, and over whom the "leading member" is determined to hold a tight rein. "Leading members" are more apt to be found in country churches, than in the cities, and for some reason, make much more trouble there. A church which has one of this kind, is to be sympathized with; and as for the minister who is afflicted with a "leading member" in his flock, his situation is anything but enviable. We hear of a fine church in the northern part of the State, formerly prosperous and influential, zealous in all good works, which is losing ground—has already lost the respect of the community—is settling down into a negative do-nothing policy, losing its vitality and usefulness, all from the fact of its being afflicted with a "leading member" who stands in the way of all progressive effort, and would have the church crawl into its shell like a snail, and there remain in indolent forgetfulness of the claims of the world around upon its Christian efforts. Of all things deliver us from the "leading member." Unfortunate indeed is that church upon which he fastens himself.—*Christian Standard.*

RANDOM READINGS.

It is doubtful if any man could by possibility do his noblest, or think his deepest, without a preparation of suffering.

Forgetting accounts payeth not debts; nay, the interest of a forgotten bond runneth up with God, interest upon interest.

"Oh! dear sir," says Brainard, in writing to a friend, "do not think it enough to live at the rate of commonplace Christianity."

There is no test to the Christian character so severe as prosperity. Through its means, many fall who would have stood proof against all the direct assaults of Satan.

There is no joy so great as that which springs from a kind act or a pleasant deed, and you may feel it at night when you rest, and in the morning when you rise, and through the day when about your daily business.

In the principality of Waldeck, Germany, the government has recently issued a notice that no license to marry shall be granted to a drunkard, nor to any one who has been a drunkard, unless he exhibits proof that he has entirely reformed.

Reprove mildly and sweetly, in the calmest manner, in the gentlest terms; not in a haughty or imperious way, nor hastily or fiercely, nor with sour looks, or in bitter language; for these ways do beget all the evil, and hinder the best effects of reproof. They do certainly inflame and disturb the person reprov'd.

Religion is as necessary to reason as reason is to religion; the one cannot exist without the other. A reasoning being would lose his reason in attempting to account for the great phenomena of nature had he not a Supreme Being to refer to. If there had been no God, mankind would have been obliged to imagine one.—*Washington.*

SPARE THAT FUN.

Spare that pun on a holy text. It struck your ears, so quick to catch double sounds even in Scripture words, and you are itching to tell it to the first one who can laugh over it with you. But don't. Try rather to forget it by not giving it vent. What's a laugh? when you think of the irreverent association it will occasion in the minds of all who hear it. They won't forget it; whenever they hear the text the frivolous thought you connected with it will also occur to them. They in turn repeating it to others, none can tell how many will be diverted from the solemn import of the holy words by the witticism first fastened upon them by yourself, and poor witticism it is. We forget the precise language in which Dr. Johnson expresses his estimate of punning. Sydney Smith did not think much of his own powers in that line, for he says:—"It is wit of so low an order, and in which some sort of progress is so easily made, that the number of those endowed with the gift of it might be nearly equal with those endowed with the gift of speech." Nevertheless a pun may have rare and genuine wit, only let it not intrude within hallowed bounds. There, however smart, it is pitiful, and unworthy of Christian lips; and often not less than profane. More than one of our readers, we are sure, lament with us the vile plague of an irreverent play on some Scripture verse, which through heard years and years ago, ever fits across the memory whenever the verse is read or heard. Then spare that pun.—*Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg.*

Conventional Notices.

CAYUGA.

Special Religious Services will be held for four days, in a beautiful grove near the Village of Indiana, commencing on Friday, the 17th of June, 1870, at 10 o'clock, a.m. Ministers and friends from adjoining Circuits are respectfully invited to attend. Entrance on the Cranboro Road. WILLIAM SAVAGE. York, May 31st, 1870.

GLANFORD CIRCUIT—CAMP MEETING.

The Camp-Meeting will be held on the old ground in Barton, near the city of Hamilton, on Mr. Jacob Terrybury's farm, to commence, June 24th, 1870. We cordially invite our Hamilton and other friends to come again to our help. Any ordering letters, can write to the undersigned, Glanford Centre P. O., or Jacob Terrybury, Esq., Hamilton. JOHN WESLEY SAVAGE.

COOKSVILLE CIRCUIT.

Zion Church, on the Cooksville Circuit, will (D.V.) be re-opened for divine services on Sabbath, May 29th, when sermons will be preached as follows:—In the morning, at 10 o'clock, by the Rev. Dr. Green; at 2 p.m. by the Rev. James Gooderham; and at 6.30 p.m., by the Rev. G. Cochran. Services will be continued on Sabbath, June 5th, when sermons will be preached at 10 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. A tea-meeting will be held in the same church on Monday evening, June 6th, and addresses delivered by the Rev. S. J. Hunter, Rev. J. Philip, and others. Tea served from 5 to 7, p.m.—Tickets 50 cents. S. C. PAUL, Jun.

CAMP-MEETING.

The Camp-meeting on the Cookstown Circuit will be held on the old ground near the village of Thornton, commencing at three o'clock p.m. on Saturday, June 12th. Ministers and others are cordially invited to come and work and worship with us. WM. HAV.

LITHOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT OF REV. W. M. PUNSHON.

Toronto, 1st June, 1870. DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of "proof" of the Lithographic Portrait of Rev. Wm. Morley Punshon, executed by Copp, Clark & Co., after our photograph. I am happy to be able to express, on behalf of my partner, as well as myself, our satisfaction with it, considering it a highly creditable production. Yours, very truly, JOHN A. FRASER.

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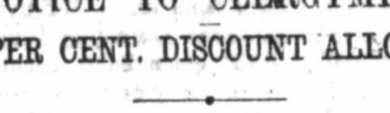
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