

### The Baptists of Buffalo.

By REV. A. S. COATS, D. D., IN BAPTIST UNION.

Many Baptists throughout the United States and Canada are finding themselves, for the first time in their lives, interested in everything pertaining to Buffalo, N. Y., the Convention city of the B. Y. P. U. A. for 1898. Some little account of the Baptists who are to welcome the hosts attending this Convention may be of interest just now. Well, we number something over 1,600, and are gathered into twenty-two churches,—one negro, one Italian, one Polish, five German and fourteen Anglo-Saxon churches. These churches range in membership from 41 in the Polish church to 721 in the Emmanuel Baptist. The old Washington Street Church, the mother of us all, now known as the First Church, has a membership of 544; the Cedar Street Church a membership of 559; the Prospect Avenue Church numbers 600; the Delaware Avenue Church 529. These figures are taken from the last Associational reports and doubtless are in each case somewhat under the present number actually enrolled. A spirit of delightful harmony and fellowship exists among the Baptists of Buffalo. This is due largely to their common work in church extension under the auspices of the Buffalo Baptist Union. The Baptist pastors maintain a weekly ministers' meeting, largely contributes to their unity of spirit in the bonds of peace. They are to a man broad-minded and generous-hearted, bearing one another's burdens and so fulfilling the law of the Lord. Rev. George Whitman, D. D., has for many years served the Cedar Street Church with continually increasing acceptance and efficiency. He is our Baptist Bishop by right of length of pastorate, and no one disputes the episcopal functions he exercises in the Baptist affairs of the city. Rev. O. P. Gifford, D. D., rejoices in his pastorate over a people who greatly rejoice in his preaching and pastor care. The Delaware Avenue Church edifice is the only one in the city that is especially worthy of the attention of visitors abroad. Every delegate to the convention of 1898 should visit this church, and thereby receive impressions that

will make him a little more proud of the fact that he is a Baptist, than he has ever been before. Rev. J. N. Field is proving himself a worthy successor of Rev. E. E. Chivers, D. D., in the pastorate of the Prospect Avenue Church. This church has long been recognized in Buffalo as one of the strongest in any denomination, both financially and spiritually. The Emmanuel Church, with Rev. C. R. Storey as pastor, is pressing on to new conquests, and is possibly the only Baptist church in Buffalo in which the need of more room is severely felt. The First Church has so long been without a local habitation of its own that many people are wondering if Concert Hall in Music Hall building is going to contain it forever. But "when this cruel war is over" this people expect to arise and build—if the syndicate to which was sold its old church property some five years since can be made to come to time with its money. The First German Baptist Church, under the efficient pastoral care of Rev. F. Hoffman, is doing its full share in evangelizing the very large German population in Buffalo, a large proportion of whom have a form of Godliness but have denied the power thereof. Rev. Robert Scott, the efficient chairman of our local committee of preparation for the Convention of 1898, is the strong pastor of a small but vigorous body of Christians who live in the most beautiful of the newer districts for residence in Buffalo, and the Parkside Baptist Church is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. Then there are the two Millers—father and son, Rev. L. E. Ford, Rev. George Burnside, Rev. S. K. Smith, Rev. W. M. Rownd, and many others, all pastors of younger and smaller but aggressive and hopeful churches—concerning which, time would fail me to speak as I ought to speak. All will have some good part in the work of the great Convention, both pastors and people, and all unite in saying to the Baptist young people of America: "Come to the great Convention and we will do you good."

Buffalo, N. Y.

When you have nothing to do never go after help.

### A Holy Care.

By C. H. SPURGEON.

We have the faculty of forethought; but, like all our faculties, it has been perverted, and it is often abused. It is good for a man to have a holy care, and to pay due attention to every item of his life: but, alas! it is very easy to make it into unholy care, and to try to wrest from the hand of God that office of providence which belongs to Him and not to ourselves. How often Luther liked to talk about the birds, and the way God cares for them! When he was full of his anxieties, he used constantly to envy the birds because they led so free and happy a life. He talks of Dr. Sparrow, and Dr. Thrush and others that used to come and talk to Dr. Luther, and tell him many a good thing. You know, brethren, the birds out in the open yonder, cared for by God, fare far better than those that are cared for by man. A little London girl, who had gone into the country, once said, "Look mamma, at that poor little bird; it has not got any cage!" That would not have struck me as being any loss to the bird; and if you and I were without our cage, and the box of seed, and glass of water, it would not be much of a loss if we were cast adrift into the glorious liberty of a life of humble dependence upon God. It is that cage of carnal trust, and that box of seed that we are always laboring to fill, that makes the worry of this mortal life; but he who has grace to spread his wings and soar away, and get into the open field of divine trustfulness, may sing all the day, and ever have this for his tune:

Mortal, cease from toil and sorrow,  
God provideth for the morrow

### Three Pretty Little Churches.

The June Ladies' Home Journal prints the plans for three model small churches—churches that can be built at small cost. The plans are by the Journal's special architect, and the churches are such as would be desired in small communities where money for their construction is not over-plentiful.

The men who are sighing for great things to do often can't make a kitchen fire.