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A NORTH AMERICAN JOURNEY

The Reverend John Stock and the American Churches

May - June 1867

The Reverend John Stock,¹ a leading Baptist minister of Victorian times, was born in London in 1817 and educated at University College London, before fulfilling pastorates at Zion, Chatham (1842-1848), Salendine Nook, Huddersfield (1848-1857), Morice Square, Devonport (1857-1872) and Salendine Nook again (1872 till his death in 1884). He played a full part in denominational affairs as a Trustee of the Psalms and Hymns Trust, an active member of the Baptist Union Council (shortly before his death he proposed, unsuccessfully at that time, that Vice-Presidents of the Union should be elected by ballot),² a visiting Examiner at Rawdon and Manchester Colleges and President of the Yorkshire Baptist Association (1877).

A prolific pamphleteer and controversialist, his 'magnum opus' was A Handbook of Revealed Theology, written at the express request of C. H. Spurgeon and used as a standard text at Pastor's College. First published in 1862, it ran into several editions, and was translated into Welsh and, in part, into Japanese. In 1850 he published correspondence between himself and Archbishop Whately on the question of Baptism.

Deeply committed on many social and political issues, he was an active member of the Liberal Party. In a sermon preached in 1880 on politics and religion, he affirmed 'Our political principles should be based on the teaching of the Holy Scriptures' because 'the moral principles laid down in the teaching of Our Lord and His Apostles were meant to guide us in every department of life... in retirement, in the family, in the warehouse, and at the polling booth ... Nations and governments are bound to act upon the same lines of truth and equity and mercy which every citizen is commanded to observe in his conduct to his fellow citizens. There are not two moral codes - one for private individuals, and another for monarchs and lawmakers and statesmen...'

During the American Civil War, he campaigned in support of the Northern States, publishing a pamphlet called The duties of British Christians with relation to the Struggle in America, as well as numerous newspaper articles and letters. Probably as a consequence of his exertions, he made a visit to the United States in 1867. Writing of him and his visit, Dr Amos Webster said in an article in America's oldest religious newspaper, The Watchman, published in Boston, Massachusetts, 'With a remarkably clear and appreciative knowledge of our American institutions, he not only comprehended the origin of our civil conflict, but with both pen and voice did noble service in his country for freedom and the North, thereby meriting more that cordial reception which was accorded to him here'. He subsequently received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Madison University in recognition of his scholarship and literary work.

He had previously been abroad to attend a Peace Congress in Paris in 1849. During his American trip, he maintained a daily journal, recording his impressions and experiences, which has not hitherto been published. The original is in the possession of Mr Stock's granddaughter, Miss Emmeline Blackburn, one time Headmistress of Walthamstow Hall School. I am indebted to her for the loan of a photocopy facsimile and other printed material relating to Mr Stock, and for permission to reproduce those parts of the journal which constitute most of the rest of this article. In making my selection, I have reproduced in full all references to Mr Stock's experiences in American churches and religious

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conventions and meetings, and also his political involvement, omitting only what I judge to be routine travelogue and tourist-style observations.

Mr Stock sailed from Liverpool on Wednesday, 24th April 1867, on payment of a return fare of 25 guineas (less a discount of 25 shillings negotiated for him by a friend). The ship, The Erin, sailed with 550 emigrants and called at Queenstown in Ireland where further emigrants came on board, finally crossing the Atlantic with 916 emigrants and their children, 115 crew and 12 saloon passengers. He was delighted to find the Captain, a Captain Hall, was a Christian: Our Captain, I find, is a Xtian man, a member of an Independent Church in Liverpool. He is a good specimen of his class and I love him much. He is calm and quiet, but a true man of God, I think. (entry: Tuesday, 30th April).

Mr Stock was a very poor sailor, suffering badly from sea-sickness, and extremely fearful of storms, collisions, icebergs and all other perils of a sea voyage. Continually-questioning the Captain and other members of the crew as to risks, safety precautions, weather prospects and distance travelled, he regretted ever undertaking his journey: ...I am quite sure that had I known what I should have to endure in mind, in agitation, in anxious harrowing care, in sleepless nights, in unspeakable terror, I should have done as good Dr Guthrie did, and have turned back at Queenstown. I overestimated my own courage. Lord! I am a poor bruised reed! ... Oh! for a fresh conversion. This last sentence seems to be crossed out and replaced by the words wrestled in prayer, which was doubtless more theologically correct, for did good Calvinists believe in second conversions? (entry: Tuesday, 30th April).

He played a full part in the devotional life of the ship.

Lord's Day, 28 April ... Had a short service after breakfast. Read short portion of 119 Psa and 28 Matt.; made a remark or two and prayed. Remembered our loved ones at home. Just passed a sailing ship. The Irish made a dismal howling over it. Why, I know not. Distributed many tracts. ... Service at night in the Saloon. Several attended. Read the Litany... *Family worship was held daily morning and evening after breakfast and tea. Mr Stock meticulously records the contents of all the services he led.*

Wednesday 1st May ... At 8 p.m. held a public service in the Saloon, which was better attended than last Lord's Day. Sang 69 Hymn. St Stephens and 519 hymn. Prague. Read 46 Psalm, and Matt XIV.13-33. Was enabled to speak a few solemn tender words. Concluded with Doxology; Tune old 100...

Saturday 4 May ... Sang 49 Hymn. Tune Harts. 13 Do. Tune St Anns. Trained several girls beforehand to sing the tunes...

Lord's Day, 5 May ... 10 o'clock. Had a public service. Read selections from the Church Service;/Anglican Prayer Book/the whole of the Litany, and 54 Isai and part of John 20ch & Preached a short sermon from 1 Pet.5c.7v. Well attended. Much enjoyed the Litany. There are many Church people among the passengers; and they were evidently much pleased and joined in the responses most heartily... Spoke to some of the Catholics; one asked me for the loan of a Bible to read. My Child's Gospel⁹ is being eagerly read. Two children, one 5, the other 2 years old, have died on board, of exhaustion. One was buried today, very quietly, without service...

As well as his ecumenical gesture towards the Anglicans in using the Prayer Book, he also showed himself appreciative of the devotion of some of the Irish emigrants.

Monday, 6 May ... I have been amusing the Irish girls by showing them my Wife and bairns [*presumably photographs*]. Their comments were most characteristic and elegant. Every morning scores of them are on the poop by

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permission to read their prayers in quietude. They are more devout than many Protestants...

Shipboard entertainment included a game of shuffle-board on the poop and lectures by Mr Stock.

Tuesday 7 May ... 8 p.m. Delivered my lecture on The Bores of Social Life to a very large audience, the Captain presiding. The people were apparently much amused and interested. But no one proposed a vote of thanks...

Thursday 9 May ... 8 p.m. Gave my lecture on Fun &^c with much acceptance: the attendance was large, and the applause and laughter were enthusiastic. Gave them Tim's speech at a Temperance Meeting to conclude with, which fairly raised the house.

Captain Hall proposed, and Ensign Gilbert seconded, a vote of thanks to me for all my efforts to instruct and amuse the ship's company during the voyage, which resolution was carried with enthusiasm. Closed with prayer...

Dr Stock was known as 'a capital lecturer', his subjects including 'John Bull, his faults and virtues', 'Recollections of a political life of fifty years', 'What men call fun', 'The fast young man', 'Social bores', 'Tears', 'The Battle of Hastings', 'Oliver Cromwell', and 'Martin Luther'.

The ship finally docked in New York on Friday, 10th May. The port Medical Officer discovered chicken pox among the steerage passengers and ordered universal vaccination against smallpox. However, the saloon passengers were exempted from this requirement. ... Disembarked at 2.00 p.m. and went to Mr Souch's (?), 87, Fulton Avenue, Brooklyn. Attended Dr Sarles's⁴ evening prayer meeting... At this prayer meeting he met an English couple from the West Country who had lived in New York for nineteen years and who became his hosts in New York.

Saturday 11 May ... Called on Dr Edw. Bright⁵ of the *Examiner & Chronicle*; at the offices of the *American Baptist*; the American Bible Union; and at the house of Dr Armitage⁶ ... This evening removed to Mr Palmer's of 49, Fort Green Place, Brooklyn, N.Y. ... Mr Palmer was 10 years deacon of the Baptist Church, George St., Plymouth in Sam.l Nicholson's day. He is a deacon of Dr John Wesley Sarles's Baptist Church, Brooklyn called the Central Baptist Church... *Always interested in every aspect of the blacks and their rights, he notes:* Noticed today that several coloured people of both sexes and all ages rode in the street cars with the whites apparently as a matter of course. None were refused admission. The same in the Steam Ferry Boats.

Lord's Day, 12 May ... 10½ a.m. preached in the Church of Dr John Wesley Sarles to a not very large congregation. The chapel was built in 1849; is a good plain structure; would I suppose seat 800 people and was about half full. An Anthem was sung by the Choir at the commencement. They have a very good harmonium which was exquisitely played.

The text was 15 Judges 16-19. Felt much enjoyment in the service, in every part of it. At the close of it found myself surrounded by many friends who thanked me cordially for the sermon; and expressed kindest wishes. Many of them were Englishmen and Englishwomen. One of them, a Mrs Skinner, formerly a Miss Kent, was baptised by Wm. Steadman⁷ in Pembroke St., Devonport. Dr Sarles's Church is famous for the number of English people in it...

In the evg. 7½ heard Hy. Ward Beecher⁸ in his own Church; called Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. The text was 1 Cor. II, 14-16 and the sermon was the most unsatisfactory that I ever heard. The natural man is our lower faculties: the spiritual man is our higher reason: the Apostle simply proclaims a universal psychological [*sic*] truth!! Not a word was there about the gracious

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operations of the Holy Spirit in the impartation of spiritual illumination!! The organ is a magnificent one: the singing is splendid but too 'operatic' in style: the congregation is a perfect cram: and the general style of the preacher rhetorical and flashy. I would not be doomed to sit under such preaching for any consideration. Lord open this gifted man's eyes more perfectly to the simple truth as it is in Jesus!

Monday 13th May *Mr Stock notes and laments various social evils, including increased drinking and chewing and smoking of tobacco (the fault of the recent war), Sunday trading, early marriage and easy divorce. Worse was to come: ... I find too from the testimony of many persons that even respectable married ladies resort to the most diabolical means to prevent themselves from having a numerous family, and even to destroy conception where this has taken place. Horrible dicta! ...*⁹ Called on Sheldon and Co. 496 Broadway, about republishing in U.S. my Handbook & Child's Gospel. Offered to leave the question of remuneration entirely in their hands ...

Wednesday 15th May ... I had heard much of Yankee inquisitiveness, but was struck by their faciturnity in the Street Cars, Steamers &c I have never yet been asked a question by any one but have always had to commence conversation, and to draw out my fellow travellers ...

The outskirts of New York are dotted over with little settlements of Irish. They buy little plots of ground, run up their wooden shanties and cling[?] together in the style of their old Country. I saw lots of their women and children grubbing in the rubbish heaps...

Friday 17th May *Having travelled the previous day to Boston by rail, he notes:* Went over Tremont Temple which is like our Exeter Hall, and contains a number of offices of all kinds, with one large Hall, and two smaller ones for public meetings. The Union Temple Baptist Church meets in the large hall which will seat 2300 people comfortably. The Pastor is Rev. J. D. Fulton¹⁰, and he always has a crowded house. The seats are all free, but a collection is made at every service. A great work is doing here...

Later the same day, he did some general sight-seeing, and in the City Free Library: ... Saw a pure Negro reading in one of the rooms ...

Saturday 18th May ... Am now quartered at Mr S. Crockett's Hotel in Boston as I am to preach twice tomorrow for Doctor Baron Stow's¹¹ people. He resigned 3 weeks since! If they have their eye upon me, my intentions are not in that direction most assuredly. The Crocketts are all members of Dr Stow's Church...

Lord's Day 19th May. Preached in the Morning and Afternoon for the Rowe Street Baptist Church, Dr Baron Stow's. Attendance moderate, but much better than normal, especially in the afternoon ... In the evening spoke at the Annual Meeting of the Peace Society, and heard the Address by Dr Peabody of the Harvard University. Public Anniversary mtgs on Lord's Days are common here.

In my address endeavoured to promote the peace and unity of England and America; and my remarks were very well received.

I find that Dr Baron Stow has resigned his Pastorate here: some of the members are already sounding me. They are very kind loving people. Dr Stow has been in Boston altogether about 35 years. But I do not think I shall leave Old England ...

Mr Stock then travelled to Chicago by rail, taking in a visit to the Niagara Falls. He records his trip as via Worcester, Springfield, Albany, Utica, Rome, Syracuse, Rochester and Niagara (Monday, 20th May).

Wednesday 22 May ... The First Baptist Church Edifice is a glorious building. The Pastor is Dr Wm. W. Everts.¹² The Edifice cost £40,000

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including the organ which cost 2000£. 2 p.m. Attended the Public Mtg. or the Colportage Branch of the American Baptist Publication Society. The Address was by Dr J. M. Gregory,¹³ President of the Industrial College, Illinois. Several colporteurs gave accounts of their labours. 7½ p.m. The evening mtg. of the Same [?] Society, the Address by Dr W. Randolph¹⁴ of Boston: Mass. The noble Church was well filled on both occasions.

Dr Randolph's Address was rather vain & spread-eagle in its style and with but little real power.

Thursday 23 May 10 a.m. Attended Annual Mtg of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. The opening address was by Hon. J. M. Hoyt,¹⁵ Lawyer, of Cleveland, Ohio, and he acted as President of the Mtg. The Church was again crowded. The Report was read by Rev J. S. Backus,¹⁶ New York: the concluding portion by Rev. Jas. B. Simmons,¹⁷ Philadelphia. Aft 3 Discussion on Report and Appointment of Officers, and General Business. A Capital Chairman, and the Meeting was very much more patient with tedious and irrelevant speakers than an Annual Baptist English Meeting would have been. Some of the Speakers were very tedious. Evg. 7½ The Same Society continued its Session. Spoke for about ¼ hour on 'Home' [?] in its relation to the Anglo-Saxon Race: touched on the Communion Question; and was most enthusiastically received. Was over-whelmed with congratulations after the meeting.

Friday 24 May The Home Mission continued its Session. The Secular Education of the Freedmen was a great difficulty; as to how it should be prosecuted, by what organisation &c ... 7½ Public Mtg. for addresses. Dr Chaplin from New Orleans spoke first. Several others followed ... A coloured Brother, Rev Dixon¹⁸ of Brooklyn, Pastor of a coloured Church there, spoke well. At the close of his address I advanced to the front of the platform and gave him the right hand of fellowship in the name of Great Britain and Ireland and thanked God for the deliverance of his race in America from bondage. The applause was tremendous. It was quite a scene.

Saturday 25th May Spoke at the Annual Meeting of the American and Foreign Bible Society (Baptist). The Meeting was held in the Chicago Music Hall but was tame and ineffective compared with the preceding ones. Aft. 3 Annual Mtg. of the American Bible Union in the House of The First Baptist Church. A crowded Chapel again. 7½ p.m. Spoke first at the Public Mtg of the same Society. Dr Armitage acted as President, and gave the concluding Address, which was a popular and able one. The Meeting was enthusiastic.

Lord's Day 26 May Preached in the Morning at Dr Swasey's, The Third Presbyterian Church of Chicago, corner of Carpenter and West Washington Streets. 10½ Heard Dr Weston¹⁹ of New York preach for the American Baptist Publication Society in the First Baptist Church at 3 p.m. Evg. Preached for Dr Paterson of the Second Presbyterian Church, Wabash Avenue ¼ to 8. Morning Text 10 Eccle. iv Evening Text 17 John iv. Congregations good, but not extraordinarily so. Dr Weston's Sermon a thoughtful, earnest defence of Baptist sentiments.

Monday 27 May Attended Meetings of Baptist Publication Society. Meetings enthusiastic; at night a Social Reunion ... Tea'd with President Burroughs²⁰ of Chicago University.

Tuesday 28th May ... 10 a.m. Annual Mtg of the Baptist Missionary Union. Heard Reports read. Attended mtgs. all day.

Wednesday 29 May 8 a.m. Lectured on England and America. Attendance about 1200, which was extraordinary considering the earliness of the hour. The Lecture was a simple statement of facts, and was extremely well received, frequently applauded and cheered. But the Americans are not much given to

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applauding their orators when they speak in places of worship. 9 a.m. Meetings of the Missionary Union commenced, and were enthusiastically conducted. 12 o'clock Went to Chicago University, and was photographed with the Baptist Convention ... 7 1/2 This was a thrilling meeting. All the young men who have been accepted for Missionary work appeared before the Convention, and described in simple, touching style how God had led them to devote themselves to the work. The best wine was kept to the last.

And so this great Baptist Convention closed its Annual Session and adjourned sine die.

It brought me into pleasant and profitable contact with the first men of the Baptist Denomination in this country, and will never be forgotten by me. 4000 visitors of all ages were entertained in this city by the several Churches. The Hospitality was princely and unbounded; and the Discussions were manly, free and dignified.

The work the Denomination is doing in America and the World is magnificent.

Leaving Chicago, Mr Stock travelled south by rail to St Louis, where he sadly noted continuing racial discrimination, for instance, negroes not being allowed in street cars by 'rabid' conductors.

Saturday 1 June ... Moved to the house of Rev A. C. Osborn,²¹ Pastor of the Fourth Baptist Church meeting on Corner of 12th and North Market Streets. Mr Osborn's house is at the corner of 12th and Benton Streets ... took my meals with him at the house of Mr E. D. Jones, the Superintendent of his Sunday Schools which contain more than 1000 children. Mr Jones is a St Louis Banker, and the most active man in the Baptist body in the matter of Sunday Schools.

Lord's Day 2 June 1987 ... Preached in the morning for Mr Osborn. Text 12 Psalm 6v. The Congregation a moderate one as to number, but very attentive. Never preached with greater earnestness or comfort. My God give me some souls in America! Let not my work here be in vain!

Afternoon visited the Sabbath Schools of 4th Church containing more than 1000 children. Mr Van Meter²² of New York and some of his children were present and sang. Attended the meeting of enquirers afterwards. Heard children of 10 and 12 years speak and pray, many of them being members of the Church. Held conversation with many of them. Many children are members of the Church here ... Evg. The Lord's Supper occupied the whole time, and a solemn time it was. Two boys, one 12, the other 14 were received into the Church. Prayed twice at the service.

After a morning sight-seeing in the company of his host, Mr Stock set out for Washington: via Cincinnati, Columbus, Bellaire, Washington Junction &c &c. His final comments on racialism in the South were hopelessly optimistic, in the light of history: Missouri is rapidly ripening to an out and out radical sentiment on the Negro Question. During his rail journey, he makes frequent references to places of interest he passed, in connection with the fight against slavery and the Civil War, on which he was apparently very well informed.

Tuesday 4 June 1867... We are now skirting the River Ohio for miles ... We passed the spot where Eliza is supposed to have crossed with her boy on the broken ice away from the fugitive slave catchers. Mrs H. B. Stowe has taken a large plantation on St John's River in Florida²³ which she intends to work for the benefit of the Negroes, and to pass her winters there ...

Wednesday 5 June 1867 ... Passed Martinsburgh where a skirmish occurred. Further on saw wrecks of buildings destroyed in the war.

Am approaching Harper's Ferry. Saw several earthworks and one or two stockades still left: but now surrounded with smiling crops of corn &c ...

At Harper's Ferry saw the remains of the destroyed Federal Arsenal,

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Magazine, &c &c.

Saw the house, too, in which the heroic John Brown was captured: and the remains of the Bridge which the rebels destroyed ...

Wednesday 5 June ... On arrival at Washington, went to the house of Dr Gray,²⁴ Baptist Minister, Chaplain to the United States Senate. Found Mr & Mrs Murdock²⁵ of the Missionary Union at his house ...

The early part of Thursday 6th June was spent in sight-seeing, particularly George Washington memorabilia. ... 8 p.m. Attended a Grand Open Air Torch-Light Demonstration of the Republican Party held to celebrate the Triumph achieved by the Republican Party in this City on Monday last when for the first time the coloured people voted in the election of City Officers, Aldermen, Councilmen, Collectors &c. The election resulted in the perfect triumph of the Republican Party and in the demonstration of the coloured man's fitness to exercise the franchise. Not a case of drunkenness or riot or disturbance of any kind occurred among them. So, tonight, the Party turn out and celebrate the happy event. The gathering took place in front of the City Hall which was illuminated by Gas. A coloured gentleman (and he was a gentleman) was appointed Chairman of the vast assembly; but it was found necessary to hold three meetings simultaneously under three different Chairmen. I opened the whole gathering with prayer and spoke briefly at two of the meetings. The coloured speakers spoke well and so did the whites: - the coloured men being an example to the whites in their moderation of their tone, in their forgiving spirit, and in their modest style. Mentally they were fully equal to the white speakers; morally they were their superiors. It was the most affecting sight I have yet seen in America. Here were thousands of men, who a few years ago were 'chattels' now not only enjoying personal freedom, but exercising all the functions of citizens, and doing so most admirably. Later in the evening I went down from the platform and mingled with the crowd; and I never was in the midst of so well-behaved, so orderly, so polite a crowd in all my life. There was no elbowing, no pushing, no fighting, no intoxication, not a single case; and yet withal there was tropical intensity and heat of excitement. Then the [?] and torches, transparencies, banners and illuminations, and the vast mass of earnest people, mostly coloured, made the scene very exciting. I thank God that I have seen this sight! Did not leave until nearly midnight!

The next day began with more sight-seeing, leading eventually to the White House.

... After waiting $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, General Grant appeared and took his seat by my side, and was at home with me at once. He is exactly like the Portraits which are circulated of him. There is no fuss or pretence about him. He is simple and modest and even diffident. But you can see the latent energy, and the stern courage and determination which are there, like a lion in repose. General Grant is a good talker when he does talk, sensible and to the point: but he is a modest deferential listener, evidently willing to learn from everybody. When he smiles, which he did several times in conversation, the expression of his features is very pleasing. Altogether he is a thorough man. We began by referring to the public sentiment of England during the American Struggle. I reminded him of several facts showing him that we were better than he took us to be: the truth of which he admitted. I asked him about the prospects of hearty reconciliation between The North and The South and he expressed himself hopefully, but said The Women; The Clergymen who had preached up rebellion but had never seen war; and The Newspaper Editors who had stuck to their scribbling instead of fighting, and did not know what the latter was, were the most bitter opponents of a thorough reconciliation.

The General said that he had long intended to visit England, but had had

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no chance since the war began. Still he meant to come and see us as soon as he could get away. I assured him that he would have such a reception as few men on earth would have; and begged of him to come and see me when he visited our country. With a hearty shake of the hand, thoroughly goodnatured, and a smile he wished me Farewell. General Grant is a quiet strong man; and has much more in him than many Englishmen give him credit for ...

The next day Mr Stock set out on the 138 mile journey to Philadelphia, via Baltimore, travelling by rail as usual.

Saturday 8th June ... 1.32 p.m. Have reached Philadelphia. Found my kind friend Rev. Jas Cooper,²⁶ Pastor of the Berean Baptist Church, at 4019 Chesnut [sic] Street, waiting for me at the Station. He took me to his hospitable roof ... It is a lovely home next door to his Church ...

Lord's Day 9 June ... 10 a.m. The Baptist Church Bell is beginning to ring for Worship. Churches of all denominations have bells here ... 10½ a.m. Hear Bro. Jas. Cooper preach from 23 Psa.4v A very comforting sermon. 3½ p.m. Had another blessed opportunity of communing at the Lord's Table with His people. Much enjoyed the service. Shared the service with Bro. Jas. Cooper. 7¾ p.m. Preached in the evg from 138 Psa 2v. The audience good as to number considering the weather. Spoke with much liberty and energy. Lord! give me some seals to my ministry here.

Monday 10 June ... Visited Wm Cathcart,²⁷ an old Bradford College Student whom I have often examined in days of yore. We talked over the past and seemed to live it over again.

Tuesday 11 June ... Arrived at the Church of Bro. J. E. Cheshire to attend a Ministerial Conference of all the Brethren in Philadelphia and the Vicinity. An Essay was read on 8 Rom: 18-23vs and an interesting discussion followed, in which I was asked to take a part.- Dined at the house of C. F. Abbott Esq^{re}²⁸ ... In the Afternoon assembled in the largest room of this hospitable mansion, and had a discussion on the work of the Holy Spirit general and special. Some of the brethren gave utterance to rather Arminian views. Joined in the discussion ...

Wednesday 12 June ... Visited 530 Arch St. again and proposed to the American Baptist Publication Society the reproduction of Gill's Tract on Jewish Proselyte Baptism ... *That afternoon Mr Stock returned to New York.*

... Evg. Preached for Dr Sarles from 138 Psa 2v. The word appeared to produce a very deep impression. With this dear people I commenced my American experiences of Xtian Churches and with them I am to close them ...

Thursday 13 June Sheldon & Co. decline the publication of my Handbook and Child's Gospel ...²⁹

Friday 14 June ... at ½ p 8 reached the prayer meeting at Doctor Sarles's Church and was warmly commended by the people of God in the prospect of my voyage. It was a most touching service, and I deeply enjoyed it. Oh! how blessed it is to be remembered in the prayers of God's own people. Dr Wyckoff spoke a few kind words to the meeting about the very favourable impression that I had made every where I had been; words that were very encouraging. I prayed for this people, for their Pastor, and for their country; and afterwards spoke a few words about the importance of peace and goodwill between the two countries ...

On Saturday, 15th June, Mr Stock embarked on The Helvetia, together with 43 other saloon passengers and 110 steerage passengers. He was again quickly involved in the devotional life of the ship, leading public worship, meticulously noting his hymns, tunes and Scripture readings. On this voyage he had help.

Lord's Day, 16 June ... 10 a.m. ... Rev Thomas Lofthouse, an old Wesleyan Missionary, who has seen 40 years service in the West Indies and is

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returning with his Wife and Child to England from the Bahamas, closed with prayer. It was a good time ... evg. 8 o'clock Had public worship. Rev Ths. Lofthouse presided: I simply gave out the hymns, pitched the tunes, and concluded with prayer ... It was agreed that we have a short reading and prayer every morning and evening ...

Wednesday 19 June ... 9 p.m. Heard a lecture from Wm Parker Snow who was second in command of the first private expedition which Lady Franklin sent out in search of Sir John Franklin; and had the first command in the last private expedition of that kind.³⁰ It was really a most touching narrative. Mr Snow exhibited several diagrams ...

during the voyage, 'The Bores of Social Life' and 'The Ethics of Fun'; other lectures came from Mr Lofthouse on his West Indian experiences and Charles Hervey Miller M.D. of New York on 'The Fine Arts'. Captain Snow, one of two Captains among the passengers, delivered a second lecture on his 'Explorations of Cape Horn and Terra del Fuego'.

Lord's Day 23 June ... During this day read carefully the Gospel of Matthew in the American Version.

Wednesday 26 June ... 8½ Had a mock Trial at Law. Dr McCulloch was tried for Libel.

The suit was for 1000£ damages instituted by Dr Ira Remsen, the Plaintiff. The Libel was that, Dr Mc.Culloch told Miss Arabella Butterfly to whom Dr Ira Remsen was engaged that Dr Ira Remsen was not better than he should be: in consequence of which Miss Arabella Butterfly gave Dr Ira Remsen the cut direct. I acted as Counsel for the Plaintiff. The Jury unanimously awarded my Client all the damages we claimed ...

Mr Stock was no braver sailor on the return journey than he had been on the outward. Despite all the perils, he returned safe and sound.

Thursday 27 June On going upon deck at 7 a.m. found that we were skirting the coast of old Ireland ... Was much affected with the hearty thanks of the passengers for my services and efforts to instruct and amuse them during our passage.

Many passengers spoke to me privately in the way of affectionate acknowledgement.

The thanks of the company were accorded to the Captain; to the Officers and Crew; to myself; to Rev Tho. Lofthouse; and 3 cheers were given for the Captain and myself ...

After disembarking at Queenstown, Mr Stock found a steamer, The Minna, plying between Cork and London, which called at Plymouth. There he disembarked at 4 to 1 p.m. on Friday, 28 June 1867. He drove home to find his wife and family well, except Percy, who is feverish.

NOTES

1 For the life of Mr Stock see *A Short Account of the Life and Death of the Rev. John Stock, LL.D., Late Pastor of the Baptist Church, Salendine Nook, Huddersfield*, Huddersfield, 1884.

2 E. A. Payne, *The Baptist Union: A Short History*, p.118.

3 A tract by Stock published in 1867 and 'warmly received by Queen Victoria'. It was described as 'An attempt to give the whole evangelistic

narrative in words adapted to the comprehension of children; being at once a translation into children's language, a gospel harmony, and a comment', *Sword and Trowel*, April 1867]

4 John Wesley Sarles D.D., born Bedford, N.Y., 1817, was pastor of the Central Baptist Church, Brooklyn, from its formation in 1847 until 1879 when he moved to Piscataway, N.J. W. Cathcart, ed., *The Baptist Encyclo-*

pedia, Philadelphia 1881 (hereafter BE), p.1029.

5 Edward Bright D.D. had been Home Secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union from 1846-1855. In the latter year, he became joint proprietor and editor of the *Recorder and Register*, with a circulation of about 10,000. Its name was changed to *The Examiner* and in 1856 Dr Bright became sole editor. By 1865 its circulation had doubled. Over succeeding years, it merged with various other papers to become the largest circulation of any Baptist newspaper in the world. It aimed to 'deal with the great questions of social and political, as well as Christian life; to present the news, with comments, from a Christian standpoint; and to do it with the fullness, freshness, and force that ought to characterise the very best class of religious newspapers'. BE pp.386-7.

6 Thomas Armitage D.D., was born Yorkshire, England, 1819. In his early years a Methodist, a lay preacher from the age of 16, he emigrated to New York in 1838, partly because of his republican views. Became pastor of the Washington Street Methodist Church in Albany, which under his ministry experienced a revival securing 80 converts. He became persuaded of the 'rightness of believers' baptism, was himself baptised, and in 1848 became pastor of Norfolk St Baptist Church, New York. Following a fire, they moved to a new site and became 'Fifth Avenue Baptist Church'. He was instrumental in founding the Bible Union in 1850, and became its President in 1856. According to BE pp.39-41, one of the greatest preachers in the United States.

7 William Steadman, 1764-1837, was from 1805 President of Horton Academy and pastor of Westgate, Bradford, whose commitment was to 'evangelism *steadied* by education'. Underwood, *History of the English Baptists*, 1947, pp.174-6.

8 Henry Ward Beecher, born 1813, Litchfield, Connecticut, died 1887,

New York. Ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1838, his most notable ministry was in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, from 1847, when it was newly organised. He rejected the amalgam of High Calvinistic theology, pessimistic fatalism and conservative social and political views, which characterised many of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches, particularly of New England. This resulted in opposition to education for the young, lack of interest in evangelism and missionary activity, and acceptance of slavery as an unavoidable institution, ordained by God. He became a leading figure in the fight against slavery and one of the greatest preachers of the nineteenth century. 'There were moments of which his former hearers still tell with bated breath; moments when the very pillars of the place seemed to tremble; when from the depths within him came an uprush of holy love and ecstatic vision which made the hearts of men and women to shake with unspeakable joy and expectancy. God himself bowed the heavens and came down, while the whole sanctuary stood in awe of him'. *The Examiner*, 26 June 1913, pp.823-5.

9 Mr Stock married twice, having a daughter by his first wife and five sons and five daughters by his second.

10 Justin D. Fulton D.D., a prolific writer and successful newspaper editor, was born in Sherburne, N.Y., 1828. After pastorates in St Louis, Sandusky, Ohio, and Albany, he became pastor of Tremont Temple, Boston, in 1863, where he remained till 1872, building a church of 1000 members, one of the largest in America at that time, leaving this for pastorates in Brooklyn. BE p.425.

11 Baron Stow D.D., one of the most successful ministers and preachers and a keen advocate of foreign missions. was born 1801 in Croydon, N.H., he was pastor of the Portsmouth, N.H., church from 1827 to 1832, when he moved to Baldwin Place Baptist Church, Boston. Between 1838 and 1843, more than 500 members were

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added by profession of faith in Christ. In 1848 he resigned and moved to the Rowe Street Church, where he remained until 1867, dying in Boston two years later. BE pp.1115-6. W. H. Brackney, *The Baptists*, 1988, pp.267-8.

12 William W. Everts D.D., a prolific writer and important national Baptist leader, was much concerned for education and church extension, assisting the northern churches to work together after the withdrawal of the Southern Convention in 1844. Born in Granville, N.Y., 1814. Held various pastorates in New York City and State, including some new causes. From 1852-59, pastor of Walnut Street, Louisville, Ky, during which time two other churches and a German church were planted. From 1859-79, pastor of First Baptist, Chicago, during which period twenty Baptist chapels were built in Chicago and its environs, and Chicago University and Theological Seminary were founded, their buildings largely paid for by First Baptist Church. BE pp.384-5.

13 J. M. Gregory was born in Sand Lake, N.Y., in 1822. From 1848, pastor of a Baptist church in Akron, Ohio, but soon became involved in education. In 1852 he became Principal of a classical school in Detroit, Mich., and in 1863 President of Kalamazoo College and in 1867 organised and became President of the University of Illinois at Champaign, Ill. Remained very active in Christian work throughout his life. In 1882 appointed to the first Civil Service Commission under President Arthur. Died 1898.

14 Warren Randolph D.D. born at Piscataway, N.J., 1826, held a number of pastorates between 1851 and 1870. *Columbian Association of Baptist Churches*, 1894, pp.63-4. At the time Dr Stock heard him, he was Pastor of Harvard St, Boston, though soon to move to Fifth Baptist, Philadelphia. Sunday School Secretary of the American Baptist Publication Society, 1871-77, he was active in producing lesson

material for a convention of evangelical denominations of the United States and Canada. BE pp.956-7.

15 James Madison Hoyt, born Utica, N.Y., 1815, became one of the foremost citizens of Ohio. A lawyer, he was called to the bar in 1836. He lived in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1835 to his death in 1895, where he was an active member of the First Baptist Church, and for 25 years Sunday School Superintendent. An active lay preacher, President of the Ohio Baptist Convention for 25 years, several times President of the American Home Mission Society, he was a contributor to and trustee of both Denison University and Rochester Theological Seminary. *Ohio Baptist Annual*, 1895, pp.49-53.

16 Jay S. Backus D.D., born Washington Co., N.Y., 1810, was pastor of several churches in New York City and State. From 1862, secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. Died 1879. BE p.54.

17 James B. Simmons D.D., born in Northeast, N.Y., 1827, held various pastorates, most notably Fifth (old Sansom Street) Philadelphia, where he pioneered adult 'Bible Schools' which were to become so influential and widespread in American Baptist life. In 1867 he was elected corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, in particular developing the work of education among freedmen. Later as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, N.Y., developed a special concern for evangelism amongst migrant Chinese. BE p.1059.

18 William T. Dixon D.D., born in Manhattan in 1833, lived nearly all his life in Brooklyn. Formerly a school teacher, in 1863 he was ordained and became pastor of Concord Church for nearly 46 years. He was President of the New England Baptist Convention for 14 successive years and actively involved with the Howard Coloured Orphan Asylum. Died 1909.

19 Henry Griggs Weston D.D., LL.D., born Lynn, Mass., 1820, was distinguished as preacher, scholar and educator. Held various pastorates, notably

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Peoria and Oliver Street Church, New York City, 1859-68, the difficult period of Civil War. He was then appointed President of the Crozer Theological Seminary for 40 years. Wrote theological and biblical books. From 1868-76 edited *The Baptist Quarterly* [U.S.]. Died 1908(?)*. Pennsylvanian Baptist General Convention* 1909, p.33.

20 John C. Burroughs D.D., LL.D., born in Western New York, 1818, after brief pastorates, settled at Waterford and West Troy, N.Y.. When pastor at First Baptist, Chicago, obtained 10 acres of land on the shores of Lake Michigan to found Chicago University, of which he became President in 1856, a job he held for 18 years, weathering the major storms of the Civil War when building and grounds were occupied as a military camp. Greatly depressed when the Baptists lost the university and its buildings, his health suffered and he resigned in 1873, taking up an appointment as assistant superintendent to the public schools of Chicago. Died 1892. *Minutes of Pastoral Union of Baptist General Association of Illinois*, 1892, pp.19-20.

21 Abraham Coles Osborn D.D., LL.D., born Scotch Plains, N.J., 1831, began as a teacher of mathematics. Pastor of Jefferson Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky, 1858-62; moved to Fourth Baptist Church, St Louis, Mo., where church grew from 59 to 450 members in six years. After various other pastorates, became President of Benedict College, Columbia, S.C. 1895-1911. Died 1916. *Massachusetts Baptist Year Book*, 1916, p.134.

22 W. C. Van Meter worked for the Howard Mission, New York and travelled with a choir of about 14 orphans or abandoned children who sang songs such as 'Our father don't drink any more', presumably to raise funds. Van Meter and his children participated in the meetings of the American Baptist Publication Society attended by Stock on 22 May, and the address included an appeal 'for any present to

aid him in locating these children in suitable homes'. *Minutes of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Publication Society*, 1867, pp.8-9.

23 At the town of Mandarin, where she and her husband did in fact live, and Mrs Stowe established and taught in a school for black children. *The Standard*, 11.8.1917, p.1485.

24 Edgar H. Gray D.D., born Bridgeport, Vt, 1813, held various pastorates, including East Street Baptist Church, Washington D.C., 1863-69. During this time, elected Chaplain of the United States Senate and served four years, officiating at President Lincoln's funeral. Later, first President of the Pacific Baptist Theological Seminary. Died 1894. *Maine Baptist Anniversaries*, 1899, p.8.

25 John Nelson Murdock D.D., LL.D, born Oswego, N.Y., 1820, was brought up as a Methodist and trained as a lawyer. Became a Baptist and held several pastorates, with a special concern for temperance issues, before becoming assistant corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union 1863-92. A calm, clear thinker and efficient administrator, he saw the income of the Missionary Union more than quadruple and number of missionaries increase five-fold. Died 1897. *The Examiner*, 25.2.1897, pp.11-2.

26 James Cooper D.D., born Boston, Mass, 1826, during a number of pastorates was actively involved with the American Baptist Publication Society. From 1880 to death in 1886, District Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society for Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. *Michigan Baptist Anniversaries*, 1886, p.126.

27 William Cathcart D.D., born in Ulster, 1826, was brought up in the Presbyterian Church, but at age of twenty became a Baptist by conviction.

Trained at Glasgow University and Horton (later Rawdon) College, became pastor at Barnsley. For conscientious reasons, emigrated in 1853. After brief pastorate in Mystic, Connecticut, moved to Second Baptist

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Church, Philadelphia, 1857-84. Was a champion of religious and civil liberty, winning respect and affection of people of other religions. Involved in founding Crozer Theological Seminary and with 'The Baptist Orphanage, the Baptist Home, the Mariner's Bethel, the Nugent Home' in Philadelphia. He served the denomination nationally as leader, particularly in the American Baptist Publication Society and as President of the American Baptist Historical Society. Edited the *Baptist Encyclopedia*, to which he contributed over 300 articles. Died 1908. E. W. Powell, *The Expression of Christian affection*, Philadelphia, 1884.

28 Charles F. Abbot, born Boston, 1821, moved to Philadelphia in 1846 and became member of the Falls of Schuylkill Church till death in 1897. Trustee of Bucknell University, member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and member of Board of Education of

Philadelphia for nearly 30 years. *Pennsylvania Baptist State Missionary Society*, 1896, p.11.

29 The American Baptist Publication Society published his tract 'Ecce Homo: or The Inferential Argument in Favour of the Godhead of the Lord Jesus Christ'.

30 Sir John Franklin mounted an expedition to seek for the North West Passage in 1845 with two ships and 129 men. None survived. In 1848 the Admiralty in Britain sent the first of twelve search expeditions. Within the past two years, the corpses of two sailors have been exhumed from the permafrost and post mortem examinations suggest acute lead poisoning, probably from inexpertly canned food. The symptoms of lead poisoning - physical weakness, loss of appetite and impairment of mental abilities - would not help men facing severe arctic conditions.

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The Psalms: introduced and newly translated for today's readers by Harry Mowvley. Collins, 1989. 327pp. £6.95.

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