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PRESIDENT B. H. ROBISON

says the year 1902 will break all records in the aggregate of risks written. Already it is certain \$3,000,000 of new business will be written. The \$5,000,000 mark has been passed and the company looks to 1903 for the \$10,000,000 station. Up-to-date, liberal policies; economical management, home patriotism and business energy are making the Bankers Reserve Life the strongest company in the west.



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Largest Church

(Continued from Fourth Page.)

preacher might well be entitled, "The Many Miracles of the Number Seven."

When he went to the rescue of the distressed Lexington Baptists he preached twenty-seven persons on the first Sunday. Arrived in Philadelphia, he found the real membership of the Grace Baptist church to be ninety-seven. The first year seventy-seven new members were received, the third year the membership was increased by 277; then for five years and three months every Sunday seven persons, no more, no less, were baptized into the church.

The Samaritan hospital started with seven persons—five patients, one doctor and one nurse.

Seven persons laid the foundation for Temple college. They were young men who came to Dr. Conwell and asked him to teach them theology in the evening. He did so in the church's basement.

Of the \$760,000 which Dr. Conwell has raised for the support of his various institutions, only \$17 has ever been received from another church.

Instances are beyond naming where the favorite numeral of the bible appears in the history of the Temple. In fact seven has cropped out so often and so unexpectedly that Dr. Conwell confesses that he is superstitious on this point. "I have come to look upon the appearance of seven as a sign from God that it is right for me to undertake the thing that I have asked his advice about," he said. "A few weeks ago I was considering an important financial problem. I prayed to be guided. At the prayer meeting following seven persons stood up and declared for Christ. The next day I put through the financial deal. If seven had not stood up I would have known that the Lord did not want the step taken. "And here is another instance," the preacher continued. "I wanted a pipe organ in the Temple. It would cost \$7,500. The trustees were opposed; said we had debt enough already. I prayed to the Lord. At the next prayer meeting, scarcely before I had finished the invitation to join, seven persons sprang up. I went to the trustees. 'Gentlemen,' I said, 'we must have that organ. I'll furnish the money for it.' So I paid down \$1,500 of my own money and gave notes for the remainder. The organ was installed.

"The first note to fall due was for \$1,500. Three days before it was due, while in the middle west, I received a letter from my wife telling me that the organ firm had inquired about the note; said it must be met on the date due, as their business integrity depended on the cancellation of certain debts with the money. I was overwhelmed. Not a cent in sight. I hurried to Philadelphia. I reached here Sunday morning, two hours before church time. I went to the church and with a heavy heart entered the pulpit. Just as I was about to begin the services a woman of the congregation walked to the side of the pulpit. 'My father,' she said, 'lives in Massillon, O. He has always admired you and he has sent this check to help pay for the organ.' I looked at the little piece of paper. It was worth \$1,500.

"That morning my sermon was the worst that ever came from my pulpit. My brains went wool gathering and I caught myself constantly repeating: 'The Lord showed you the figure 7, why—why did you doubt?' " Dr. Conwell paused a moment. Then he added: "But to me the most remarkable manifestation of the figure 7 occurred when a class from the Princeton Theological seminary came here to investigate the story that for four years seven persons had been converted each week. They, with others, doubted the facts, and wanted to make a test.

"Come and see for yourselves," I said. They came. At the usual time I gave the invitation. Gradually four persons arose. Then, after a pause, a fifth, and then a sixth. I waited. No one else stood up. The Princetonians looked triumphant. Once more I earnestly, desperately, pleaded for one more, two more, any number, to rise who felt that they needed Christ. And no one arose. I went to the organ, announced the closing hymn and began playing. Scarcely had we started on the second verse when from away down in the congregation a man rushed down the aisle, crying bitterly, and sprang on the platform. He implored the congregation for its prayers. Afterward he told me who he was. He had come down from Shamokin that day for the express purpose of asking us to aid him, but when he got in the prayer meeting courage failed him and did not return until my heart had been all but broken."

The Princetonians were convinced. Despite his 60 years, Dr. Conwell is as full of energy as he was twenty years ago. His large frame is still supple and age has not put a white hair in his head. Once, for fourteen years, he was so busy that he could not find time to spend a single evening in his home. He gives the impression that he could be as strenuous again and still survive and look pleasant.

The dean of the rural press of New York state is A. C. Bunnell of the Daville Advertiser. He founded that paper forty-two years ago and twenty-five years since he became secretary of the New York State Press association. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the latter event was celebrated recently with appropriate gifts from the association.

Dean of New York Press

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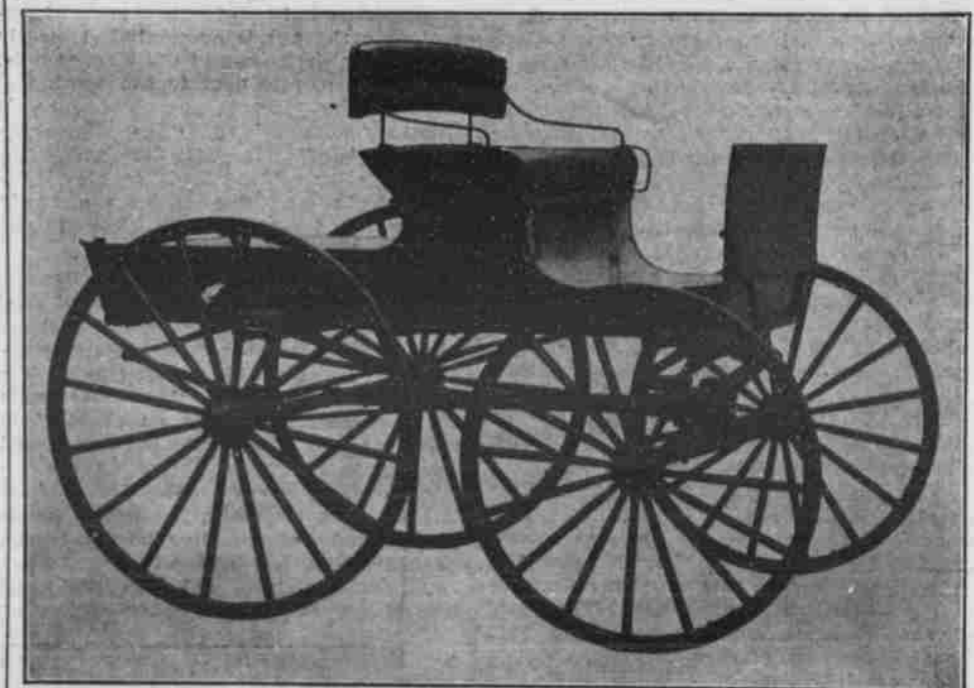
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