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D. C. HOUGHTON, EDITOR.

ALBERT BARNES, THOMAS BRADNER, HENRY DARLING, GEORGE DUFFIELD, JR., JOHN JENKINS, THOMAS SHEPHERD.

EARNESTNESS IN THE SERVICE OF GOD.

No subject esteemed of deep personal interest is so little considered or appreciated, as the claims of God. Whatever will secure wealth, fame or pleasure, is regarded by men, generally, as the grand business of life.

But the main hindrance to the possession of an assurance of one's adoption, is a low standard of piety. His feelings and actions are not uniformly in unison with the command of Christ, "Seek first the kingdom of God."

Now when this is the experience of the Christian, can it be otherwise than that he doubt of his interest in the Saviour? Could he assure himself of being a child of God, while manifesting so little of the spirit of adoption, this would confirm him in his backsliding.

The renewed man, however, transfers his supreme regard from things seen and temporal, to those which are unseen and eternal. He is required to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," the assurance being given that all needful things will be supplied.

The frequent failures in responding to this claim, on the part of the most devoted disciples, furnish occasion for daily penitential confession, and supplication for pardoning mercy.

CHURCH EXTENSION—ITS PRESENT CONDITION. We have never been so encouraged in relation to the Church Extension enterprise as we now are. It is taking root everywhere in the Church.

Mr. Norton, the District Secretary for the West, writes: "I have corresponded, and am enjoying with the pastors of the principal churches in my field. I cannot tell you how many letters I have written; they count by hundreds."

Another class of professing Christians take a stand far in advance of the former. They admit they ought to regard the kingdom of God of first importance, and seek it as the main pursuit of life; and in uniting themselves with the friends of Jesus in church fellowship, they pledge, by divine grace, to walk according to this rule.

Reasons might be assigned why Christians generally do not have this assurance and this blessedness. Some are of a gloomy temperament, and do not or cannot appreciate the evidences of adoption that their hearts and lives furnish.

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door of our branch of the Church, and a heavy weight will be pronounced against us, if we ignore it, or are even slack in its performance. From her successful efforts to advance the kingdom of truth and righteousness, since cut off and thrown upon her own resources, and the blessings of Heaven which have attended these efforts, we have reason to hope for greater things and greater blessings.

I have been shut in much of the winter by inflammatory rheumatism and cough, but, thanks to a somewhat better Mr. Beach, my "borrowed time" has run nearly four years. It cannot extend much longer. But "our times and seasons are in His hands," blessed be His name! I would wish them in none other."

The fields of labor opening before the Committee are most wide and interesting. Mr. Beach, our exploring missionary in KANSAS, has organized some ten or twelve churches, and now his appeal is for men. "Cannot you send us men?" he writes—"Do not forget any one with the idea that they would be fighting into the wilderness. A more beautiful, well-cultivated country, a more moral, intelligent, enterprising people are not to be found anywhere."

A Presbytery is already formed in Kansas, and the committee are preparing to begin another in NEBRASKA. A brother, of whom we have the warmest commendations, will visit Omaha City with the earliest spring, at the earnest request of brethren there, who wish to be organized into a church. This is intended as the beginning of an effort in that vast and inviting region.

We just have, also, a most interesting letter from Pike's Peak, the proposed new territory of JEFFERSON. A brother, who spent several months there last year, proposes to go as our missionary and locate at Mountain City, in the midst of the gold mines. He says that there is no doubt, whatever, that there is gold there in great abundance, and in addition, silver, copper, lead, and coal.

We are just in receipt, too, of an appeal for CALIFORNIA AND OREGON. The brother, who has been for three years Chairman of the Church Extension Committee of the Synod of Alta California, writes by the last steamer. Nothing had been written to him by the Committee. Here, as elsewhere, there appears to be a spontaneous gathering to the Committee, by those who love our Church. He gives the reasons as they strike him, for our Church not growing more rapidly on that coast, and urges the appointment of an exploring missionary, by our Committee, to plant churches in California and Oregon.

We have already called attention to Mr. HILL to the East to extend them, and to the proposed appropriation of \$2,500 for that field. Our friend, Mr. NEILL, has just arrived in town, and our readers may be sure that we have heard something from him about the wants of MINNESOTA. We have pledged help to the Presbytery of Monroe in MICHIGAN. And there are faithful men who do not fail to tell us that ILLINOIS is in the forefront of the battle.

It may be proper to add, while on this subject, especially in view of the strictures of the Cincinnati Herald, that neither we nor the Church Extension Committee are responsible for the opinions and arguments of the recent circular of Mr. Norton. He has his own views for which he is alone responsible, while the Committee endorse nothing but that which they publish officially. The insinuation that the Committee have concealed designs which Mr. Norton has revealed, is unworthy of the Herald. The truth is simply this: that Mr. N., though signing the circular, "Secretary for the West," issued it without any direction from the Committee or its Secretary, and has accordingly published his own views, for which no one but himself is responsible.

"MINISTER'S WOOING." The New York Observer and Evangelist have for several weeks been discussing the orthodoxy and purity of this new novel of Mrs. Stowe's, in a spirit not the most affectionate and wooing, and in tones not altogether courteous and ministerial. Like HELPER'S CRISIS in Congress, it has become a text, or pretext for exhibiting their natural reactions and defining their position on all questions of morals and politics, not excepting the vexed question of slavery. It seems a little unkind in the Observer after disparaging the theology of the Evangelist to add, "that hereafter we shall have equal respect for its serenity and its theology."

annihilation. It may introduce and follow them with such remarks as it is pleased to make: all we ask is, that it will give us a fair hearing, in one number of its paper. We will not ask "any reward." We will present to our anxious neighbors, for their readers, within twenty-four hours after we learn that they accept our offer, "a clear and positive opinion about slavery," in the abstract and the concrete, as it was and as it is, the best way of treating it, and the best way not to treat it; an opinion with which our readers are familiar, and which the Evangelist says, will bring "a larger reward than was ever offered for a premium tract." Let there be no evasion. "You have called upon us for our opinions. We offer them to you, if you will lay them before your readers, in our own words. Will you have them?"

Now the Evangelist has a rare opportunity to treat its readers and the Christian public to something "clear and positive," on a very indefinite subject. We are on the qui vive of expectation. Let us have the "Premium Tract!" Conticere omnes, intentique ora tebant.

THE PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY REVIEW. We have read the January number of this excellent Quarterly with pleasure and profit. The main topics discussed are at present exciting unusual interest in the church, and are treated by able hands and in that satisfactory manner that will tend to strengthen the convictions of its readers, on these important doctrinal truths as held by our church. Clear, consistent and definite opinions regard the fundamental doctrines of religion are essential to an intelligent, reliable and progressive piety. To think and to theorize is the appointed method of acquiring substantial knowledge, of strengthening faith, as well as of developing the receptive faculties and the capacities of the mind; and he who excites and promotes inquiry and investigation, does valuable service to the cause of Christianity; and he who, in any good degree, satisfies the thoughtful mind with rational truth and a comprehensive and philosophical view of the chief end of man and of the higher duties which religion imposes upon him, does more; he touches the springs of action which move and control the moral world. Philosophy is practical. Speculative opinions are not inert forces, but active and powerful agents for good or for evil. A man's principles and dogmas in religion are no matter of indifference. They are the impelling power that directs and controls all his activities, the sub-til from which his true being and life derive their nourishment and take their coloring. Correct and rational opinions, a philosophy that harmonizes with the essential character of God, with the teachings of his word, with the nature of man, are essential to the progress of true religion, to the development and exercise of an intelligent and consistent piety. Therefore it is an encouraging feature of the times, that men are disposed to examine the very foundations of truth. The mania for an opinion is antique and labelled orthodox, does not satisfy. The nineteenth century assumes the right and privilege to review the opinions and speculations of previous centuries, and interpret for itself the formula of words in the Confession, by the increased light that has been thrown upon the never varying standard of truth, the authoritative word of God, as it commends itself to the higher reason of man.

In this respect our Quarterly is meeting an imperative want of the church in prominently bringing forward and defending the distinctive features of our theology; and exhibiting those peculiar shades of interpretation and doctrines which give distinctive character and efficiency to our own branch of the Presbyterian Church. The present number opens with an extended discussion of the agreements and differences of the Old and New School Theology as held by the two prominent branches of the Presbyterian Church in this country, which led to their separation, and justify their continued separate existence. The substance of this article appeared originally in the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN. It has been revised, and in some respects modified and extended. These views as here presented are the fruit of long and thoughtful experience and observation. They have not been successfully met or contradicted: They are clearly and calmly expressed, and are entitled to no little weight of authority. We believe the article expresses more clearly than any other document that has been published the accredited views of our church as distinctive from the Old School, and we are glad to see the article in this permanent form, and commend it to the careful consideration of all who would learn the distinctive difference of the Old and New School branches of the Presbyterian Church. We agree with our neighbor the Presbyterian that there is a sufficient difference to warrant the separate organization and continued existence of our branch of the church.

The second article is an interesting and instructive sketch of the character and life of the distinguished German Theologian, Schleiermacher. It contains the substance of articles that have recently appeared in a German Review.

"ANNALS OF THE POOR." "THE BEGINNING OF THE END." During last Wednesday evening prayer meeting news was brought that one whom I had visited was most probably drawing near to death, with a request that I should visit her at once. After meeting I did so—I found her (a woman of about seventy) in a very feeble state, having been spitting blood, though she was sitting up—she was alone, and without medicine or nourishment, and seemed afraid of making trouble. It was with some difficulty she could speak intelligibly. After making arrangements for her comfort, I asked her if she was a Christian? She said, "I think I am—God is all my hope and trust, and He has been so for ten years. He has supplied my wants, and raised up friends for me, and I can and do trust Him." "And do you trust in Christ for salvation?" "Indeed I do!" So far as I could judge the peace of God reigned in her heart, and this under circumstances of such hopeless, helpless poverty and certain approaching dissolution as does not often fall under the notice of Christians. If any one sets a light value on the gospel, let him go to this believer's couch, and there see what it can do for the destitute in the "beginning of the end" of her pilgrimage. Her end is near.

THE WIDOW AND HER SON. Four years ago she became a widow. It was a dark day to her, and it still casts its dark shadow over the present and all the future of her life. How many such there are in this district! But she has a son, now about sixteen, and he is idle, or so nearly so as to be able to do only such things as require the faculty of imitation in its simplest form. For instance, last summer in a neighboring brick-yard he was found capable of passing the new-made brick from the maker to the floor, and of repeating this process throughout the day, and now, during the winter, she has succeeded in teaching him to bake pants, (she makes pants at twenty-two cents a pair on an average,) and thus their days and evenings are spent. It is a strange companionship, but 'tis her son. Unable to instruct

great and growing church of Christ. We commend this article to the thoughtful consideration of all friends of the American Board and of the cause of Foreign Missions. An excellent feature of the present number of the Quarterly is the extended space given to the notices and criticisms of new publications. These are in the main very judicious, and will afford a clue to the character of each book herein noticed.

DEAR ANNALS:—I read an account in the last American Presbyterian of a poor consumptive woman winding bobbins all day and nearly all night to gain enough to live on, and as I am a little boy with a few cents to do as I please with, I thought I would send it to her. I would like to know very much in some way if it is received. If you would just state in your annual that this small amount (one dollar) from Ann Bluffs was received, I would be satisfied. Yours with respect, J. F. L.

the simplest moral lesson or to hold any intelligent conversation, yet he is her son—the child of her affections, with whom she is passing hand in hand through life, and less discontented than they who live in kings' houses. But she is very poor, though working "late and early," for both make, clear of rent, but about one dollar a week.

I must continue to direct attention to the matter of clothing. At every turn I meet with men, women and children, struggling as if for life at their work, so wretchedly clad as to be constantly inducing sickness and death.

THE JAPAN MISSION. The following interesting letter from the Rev. Samuel B. Brown, who sailed from New York in May last, was published in the Christian Intelligencer, and will be new to most of our readers. This is Mr. Brown's second adventure as a missionary in China and Japan. He was obliged to return to his native country on account of the failing health of his wife, and he now goes back to his work with renewed hope and courage. Mr. Brown was early consecrated to the ministry by a devoted Christian mother; and his life adds another witness to the success of maternal fidelity. We may be allowed here to state, that his mother is the author of the tract, "POOR SARAH," which a number of our sweetest, popular hymns; among which we would mention the one commencing with the verse: "I love to stand awhile away From every hamlet care, And spend the hours of setting day, In humble, grateful prayer."

THE CHRISTIAN PASSOVER. Every careful reader of the Scriptures must have observed that the new dispensation is an outgrowth of the old, as the plan of redemption spans the ages from the beginning of the world to the end thereof. The church of God is one—the Gentiles being grafted into the good olive tree partake of the root and fatness of the olive, and God's husbandry is substantially the same in all ages.

THE LAWRENCE CALAMITY. Lawrence, Mass., January 18th, 1860. MESSRS. EDITORS:—Will you be so kind as to insert, in substance, the following in whatever form may appear to you best, and so confer a favor? AN APPEAL. I desire not to pain the minds of your readers, by rehearsing the facts relative to the sad calamity, which has befallen a city in our service and suffering. They have been, no doubt, made too familiar already with them, from other and better hands. But, after the best powers of description shall have been exhausted, the scene in its true colors shall not be represented. It surpasses the power of the mind to comprehend, or words to describe. My object, chiefly, is to call the attention of the United Church to our present circumstances as a congregation, arising out of this sudden and unparalleled catastrophe. Up to this time, since I came over here to labor, we had enjoyed signal tokens of God's presence and blessing; the members were gathering again around the standards of the cross, which of '67, in this place, obliged them to abandon; the spirit of harmony and love universally prevailed; we had succeeded in paying up the interest that accumulated during the hard times, while other necessary improvements were made upon the property itself; in addition, we were about introducing gas light in the building; so that if we had been spared for another year, we were in great hopes that our demand upon the sustentation fund could have been greatly reduced. Now our prospects are obscured, and our hopes, in an instant, blasted; one third of our people are thrown out of employment, and will have to go elsewhere to obtain it, while numbers of others are prostrate on beds of suffering, dangerously, if not mortally wounded; the remainder, true to our principles, desire to have the means of grace continued with them, but under existing circumstances, there is no earthly hope of any such object being obtained by any efforts we could put forth, for some time to come.

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and irresponsible men, but by the legal authorities and according to the forms of law. Firmness tempered with moderation will now secure to them the sympathy of the great mass of their fellow citizens of the free States. If they pursue this course we doubt not that great good will grow out of the Harper's Ferry affair, that it will eventually be overruled to the bringing about of a better state of feeling between the citizens of the North and the South than has existed for years. If so, John Brown will not have lived and died in vain.

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