

American Presbyterian and Genesee Evangelist.

THURSDAY, FEB. 2, 1860.

D. C. HOUGHTON, EDITOR.

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

THE FALL OF PUBLIC MEN.

Nemo repente fuit turpissimus. The perpetuity of religion, the success of plans for human progress, and the preservation of liberty, depend on other things than the character of public men. They are connected with causes deeply seated in human nature, in the hearts of men, and in the purposes of God.

The penalty often seems severe. The world, merciful elsewhere, refuses to stretch out its arms to receive the offender, even though penitent; much less on suspected and hollow professions of penitence, or on lame attempts at self-justification.

The principal effect of the fall of public men pertains to themselves. The world now cares little about Benedict Arnold, when he lived, or how he died. It has long since ceased to feel any interest in Judas Iscariot, and there is, perhaps, not a man on earth who would make a pilgrimage to the spot where he hanged himself.

The reasons of this are plain. It is not merely the enormous wrong that is done; the injury inflicted on that which is great and valuable and pure; the insult publicly given to those who had confided in such men, and who had heaped upon them honors which the result showed they had not deserved.

swallowed up in the sand, and the bed dry, is 'ashamed' that he had trusted to such a stream—so false and so delusive; it is because the community believes, and will not and cannot be convinced to the contrary, by any poor, hollow apology, or by any amount of "hush money" paid, that all this is the mere exponent or outgrowth of secret iniquity long practiced; of acts of guilt so often perpetrated, that for the good of the offender himself, and for a warning to others, God suffers the secret depravity to be uncoined, and the guilty man to fall to rise no more.

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been accumulating like pent-up waters, and that now burst forth in an enormous act of guilt that swallows up every thing that was valuable in his character, and that betrays his country, a deed he ought to do, does not perform such a deed by one act of sudden temptation. Far back in guilty pleasures, in extravagance of living, in secret dissatisfaction with his commander or his country, in disappointed ambition, envy, malice, or covetousness, is laid the foundation of the enormous crime, and the act if traced is just the exponent of his guilt.

"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING." The Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, New York, held protracted meetings at intervals during the last few weeks, for discussing the propriety of withholding their annual missionary collection from the American Board.

SOUTHERN SENTIMENT. The North Carolina Presbyterian (Old School) contains the following avowal of Southern opinion on slavery, which, in view of its source, somewhat surprises us. We expect politicians and partisans to form their standard of morals and shape their opinions to the popular fancy, and to suit their views to the popular pulse.

THE TRACT SOCIETY PAPERS. Finding that the statements made in the Chronicle of Jan. 10, respecting the Tract Society papers, contained some mistakes, and that the facts in the case were not fully understood in our community, inquiries were made at Boston.

DR. WADDINGTON. We have before stated that Dr. Waddington met with opposition and prejudice on his return to London, on account of his supposed complicity with slavery in this country.

REV. MR. GUINNESS. This young and noted preacher is still laboring with success in this city. He preaches nearly every night, and holds meetings of religious inquiry. Crowds attend upon these services, and there is no seeming abatement of interest.

DEATH OF REV. J. ADDISON ALEXANDER, D.D. Our country has lost a great scholar, and the Presbyterian Church an able defender in the death of Dr. Alexander. Two months ago the church was startled by his sudden and dangerous illness.

ANNALS OF THE POOR. There is something singularly touching in the simple history of many of these people. Truth, here at least, is often stranger than fiction; or, if not stranger, it certainly has higher claims upon our sympathies.

INDIAN ORPHAN ASYLUM. After having received so many sympathetic tokens for our Indian Orphan Asylum from your city, will you not open a friendly space for me to acknowledge them gratefully in a lump?

GENEVA PRESBYTERY ON SLAVERY. The Presbytery of Geneva, in common with their brethren in this and other lands, regard it as a Christian duty to bear their testimony, at this time, against the practice of slavery.

At a recent visit paid by his church and congregation to the pastor of the Presbyterian church of Coldwater, Michigan, the following address, accompanying the gift of a card ornamented with three pretty long rows of gold dollars, was made by a comely maiden who represented the several Bible classes connected with the Sabbath school.

EDITOR'S TABLE. LIFE WITHOUT AND LIFE WITHIN. By Margaret Fuller Ossoli, author of "Woman in the Nineteenth Century," "Art, Literature, and the Drama," &c., &c. Edited by her brother, Arthur B. Fuller.

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