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JOHN W. MEARS, EDITOR.

ALBERT BARNES, GEORGE DUFFIELD, JR., THOMAS BRAINERD, JOHN DENKIN, HENRY DARLING, THOMAS S. SHEPHERD.

LAW AND GOVERNMENT.

Amid a general uncertainty and confusion of ideas on questions of public expediency, it is well that there are certain fixed principles around which the scattered thoughts and unsettled judgments of men may rally.

Law and Government have their foundations in the deepest principles and necessities of the divine and human mind. They are founded on conscience, on the will of God, and on their adaptability to promote the highest happiness of all beings.

The best human governments are imperfect: imperfect in structure, and imperfect in working. The best of men cannot construct or carry on a government without imperfections.

When, indeed, a government is totally perverted from its true ends, so as to work disastrously upon the welfare of its subjects. When it violates upon conscience, and compels men to trample the plain commands of God, then it has slipped off of its grand supports, and can no longer claim reverence and duty from men.

This is a government among men which was established by God-fearing, pure-minded patriots, under the direct molding influence of the principles of Christianity.

Language, conceptions, fall us in attempting to portray the enormity of those acts which aim at the overthrow of such a government, and which, in its place, would bring dismemberment, anarchy and ruin.

The Federal Government is a government, strong, good, wise, equitable, worthy of reverence and support. It is not worthy of reverence as approximating to the demands of human society, will of God and the requirements of justice.

SEVEN YEARS' LABOR AND ITS FRUITS.

We have already laid before our readers an extract from the anniversary discourse of Dr. Jenkins, of Calvary Church, recently published under the above title. It is a document so encouraging to our denomination in this city and to active Christians generally, that we cannot refrain from a further reference to its contents.

Of the three hundred and sixty names enrolled in the books, irrespective of those added at the Tabernacle, 152 were added on profession, 138 by letter from churches of our own branch, and 65 from Congregational, Reformed Dutch, and "Old School" Churches, making a very homogeneous society.

In the diemissals to other churches, the strength of church attachment is shown in the fact, that forty of the fifty-six dismissed "have left us to remove to distant residences, or for the purpose of strengthening the work of God in two infant churches, whose establishment originated with ourselves."

But the chief feature in the history of Calvary Church is, as the preacher says, its missionary history, at once "remarkable and encouraging." Five years ago, a few of the brethren went forth to survey the spiritual destitutions of the city, and were led, in the providence of God, to a district near the Eastern Penitentiary.

But the zeal and energy of these brethren, so far from resting contented with this large success, in less than two years undertook a similar enterprise, called TABOR MISSION, in the south-western part of the city. Here, too, the Lord's blessing was signally manifested, and in November, 1857, the beautiful chapel and school room on the corner of Seventh and Fitzwater streets, were dedicated to the service of the Master.

This, in brief, is our missionary work in Philadelphia for the last five years. Led to by the provisions of God, we have been permitted to carry the gospel to hundreds of neglected families, we have been privileged in these two schools alone to give religious instruction to at least fifteen hundred children, we have had opportunities of dispensing many hundreds of dollars to the poor and the needy, and what is better than all these, three hundred and ten persons, of all ages from fifteen to seventy-five, have been brought out of the world into the church—brought, clothed, we trust, and in their right mind, to sit at their Lord's table.

It is proper to add, that to benevolent causes of denominational or general character, the Calvary Church has contributed \$150,000 in the seven years under review.

MIDDLE GROUND.

The position of our Church in doctrine, polity, and moral reform, was well characterized by the late retiring Moderator of the General Assembly, Dr. Patterson, in the lucid and philosophical sermon preached by him in Pittsburg. In that discourse our Church is proven, analytically and historically, to be the Middle Ground Church.

We have not yet abandoned a purpose formed soon after the publication of the sermon, to elucidate in these columns its positions and arguments; for we see evidence, every week, of wide-spread misconception in regard to our true position, which we have been reminded of our purpose, and strengthened in our convictions, by certain articles which have lately appeared in two opposite journals, representing respectively two opposite positions on the subject of slavery.

In this article the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN in its extreme of opinion on the subject of slavery, is referred to, as representing the opinions of our Church on this subject. The first which we shall mention appeared in the South Carolina Presbyterian of the 12th inst. This paper is sorely troubled with the deliriums of the Princeton Review on the state of the country, and is anxious for some effectual means of exposing their extreme character.

Behold the contrast! The South Carolina editor regards our anti-slavery character as of so ultra a cast, that a conservative journal is damaged irreparably by our demonstrations of sympathy and approval. The ultra anti-slavery editor, piqued perhaps, at the failure of the Free Synod to gain admittance to our body on their own terms, denounces us as ready to take in the most ultra pro-slavery Synod in existence, including the South Carolina editor himself!

OUR HOME MISSIONARY OPERATIONS. Our readers have been kept acquainted, from time to time, with the progress and needs of our Church Extension operations, and with the condition of the laborers employed in our church, both by the Committee and the American Home Missionary Society.

The Church Extension Committee, pursuing a policy dictated by prudence, and Scriptural rule, attempted nothing beyond their actual income; every missionary in their employ is paid in full to the 31st of December. Adhering to this rule, they can do nothing in advance of the zeal and liberality of the church. If we wish them to aid these suffering brethren—and can there be any if in the matter? We must supply them with the means. Let us rise up like men and meet the emergency upon them and us.

COORRECTION. EDITORS OF AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.—Will you do me the favor to correct an error in the last report of collections on my field for our Publication Committee?

MISREPRESENTATIONS OF THE PRESS.

A dispassionate view of public affairs contains the belief that a system of gross and persistent misrepresentation has had much to do with leading the nation to the verge of revolution. The South has been slandered at the North, and the North as grossly misrepresented at the South.

We quote the above from the Circular letter which has recently been signed by a number of clergymen of various denominations, chiefly in the city of New York, and addressed to the clergy and laity of the South. The purpose of the letter is, if possible, to open the eyes of good men at the South to the fact, that they have grossly misconceived the great body of the Northern people, who cherish none but the most pacific intentions to their Southern brethren.

DR. BRECKENRIDGE'S FAST-DAY ADDRESS, DELIVERED AT LEXINGTON, KY. We have read this able production with deep interest and much satisfaction. It is eminently patriotic and judicious, and coming from such a quarter, will have weight with those who stand in special need of its counsels.

Among the evils which he enumerates as already experienced, is the substitution of a Colonial for the Union flag, and "a community thrown into a prozym of rage, because in the harbor of Charleston our national flag, instead of being still further dishonored, yet floats over a single tower."

"They who make the attempt will find in it no remedy for the evils from which they flee. They who had others to the fatal step, will find that they have themselves erred exceedingly. They who have had the lead in both acts of madness have no hope for good from coming ages, half so great as that they may be utterly forgotten."

On the supposition that the cotton States will actually secede and maintain a separate confederacy, he stoutly denies that Kentucky or the border States must necessarily go with them. There are other interests besides those of slavery and cotton in the border States, which would be inadequately protected in such a confederacy.

Not Given to Change.—The pilot of the steamer plying on Seneca (N. Y.) Lake, has averaged a trip, up and down, three hundred days in each year for twenty-one years; he has thus travelled five hundred and seventy thousand six hundred miles, on this little lake in that time.

AN ADMIRABLE BOOK.

Messrs. Editors:—We have seldom been so pleasantly entertained in perusing literature for the young, as we have been recently in reading a little work entitled "Money, or the Ainsworths," issued from the Presbyterian House, by the Publication Committee.

The "Doctor" is a specimen of a class, who "lock the stable door after the horse has escaped," while his lady meets with a counterpart in many an anxious housewife, determined on always being in an uncomfortable hurry.

KINDNESS TO PASTORS. The following instances of spontaneous liberality on the part of congregations to their pastors, have been brought to our notice, which we publish, as it seems to be the custom, on the principle of provoking to like and good works.

For the American Presbyterian. PRESBYTERY OF ONTARIO. The winter sessions of this Presbytery have recently been held at Mount Morris. The devotional exercises were especially interesting.

MR. WILDER AND THE KOLAPOOR MISSION. A card with the above heading, published by the Prudential Committee of the A. B. C. F. M., has been seen some weeks by the public.

ADDITION TO THE CHURCH. Mr. Pleasant, N. J., Jan. 21st, 1861. Dear Brother Mears:—Yesterday was a precious day with us. It was our communion. Eleven persons were admitted to our church on profession of their faith in Christ.

A Source of Revenue.—California possesses 400 saw mills, erected at a cost of \$2,000,000. One-half are propelled by water, the remainder by water. They cut annually 600,000,000 feet of lumber, the value of which is \$15,000,000.

IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNTRY CHURCHES.

Improvements in church edifices have been a recent feature in the quiet, even history of many of the churches in this region round about. The Presbyterian societies of Waverley, Horseheads, Weston, Benton and Havana, have made very considerable changes for the better; in the appearance of their respective places of public worship;

The Presbyterian church at Waverley has been considerably enlarged by an addition at one end of it, and with a handsome fresco-panel papering upon its inner walls, in connection with other improvements, it certainly presents an appearance very pleasant to look upon.

The Presbyterian church of Horseheads has been changed as to its interior arrangements, from an earlier to a later style; the side galleries have been removed, a recess constructed for the pulpit, additional slips put in, and all the seats uniformly upholstered.

For the American Presbyterian. PAMPHLETS AND MAGAZINES. THE KNICKERBOCKER, February, 1861.—This number opens with the continuation of Hester's story of Wall Street, a simply and truthfully told story of mercantile life in its New York city phases.

GASSELL'S POPULAR NATURAL HISTORY, part 21, is principally occupied with ruminating animals. GASSELL'S ILLUSTRATED FAMILY BIBLE, part 22, reaches to the book of Nehemiah. Cheap, indeed, for the quality, at 15 cents a number.

MESSIAH'S ROYAL BEAUTY, seen by the saints. A discourse preached in the 1st Reformed Presbyterian church, New York, Sept. 16th, 1850, by Samuel O. Wylie, pastor of the 2d Reformed Presbyterian congregation, Phila. Phila.: Thomas Sines, printer, 1850.

CATALOGUE OF THE OFFICERS AND STUDENTS OF MARYLETTA COLLEGE, 1850-61. The Faculty of this Institution are: James W. Andrews, D. D., President; John Kendrick, M. A., Prof. of Latin and Greek; Ebenezer B. Andrews, M. A., Prof. of Mathematics; Edward P. Walker, M. A., Prof. of Rhetoric and Librarian; David E. Beach, B. A., Principal of the Normal School. The number of students in both departments is one hundred and ten.

"AN UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE."

In a neat, quiet, back street there is now living a young man and his wife, with their three children, the latter ranging from the cradle up to six years of age; their small house is neatly furnished, with a rag carpet on the floor, and a large stove, with table and chairs to suit, while here and there hangs an old picture upon the walls—all indicating a happy home.

The spring came, and during it and the last summer he has had work but for three days in each week, until some four months ago it stopped entirely. They were not yet altogether out of means, for the mother still continued to ply her needle, and thus earned enough to supply their food, but all else must stand back. In the mean time the husband sought employment, and only obtained promises that when the "panic" is over he should have work. The mother's needle-work has ceased, and now they live upon expectation, with occasionally earning a trifle by helping a neighbor to move, or in doing their washing. These are uncertain, and this young, sober and industrious family may well be said to be without the necessities of life.

EDITOR'S TABLE. PERSONAL HISTORY OF LORD BACON. From Unpublished Papers. By Wm. Hepworth Dixon, of the Inner Temple, London. Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1860. Bacon's celebrated life in regard to Bacon: "The wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind," has been acquired in so long that it has passed current almost as an axiom, and has been used to point many a moral and adorn many a tale.

Another leaf of Scotch life and history. Dean Ramsay's book has just presented some general views of Scotch character, and here we have them boldly exemplified in an autobiography, marked by a strong individualism. The period passed in review is from 1727 to 1805, one of great extent and full of stirring incident. Leading Scotch personalities who came in contact with Carlyle, are described and characterized with great clearness and ability. Carlyle himself, an utter stranger before, quickly draws the reader's attention. Our views of Scotch character, Scotch Presbyterian minister are sadly mistaken, however, by reading of his astounding theatrical performances and cultivating the acquaintance of dramatists and actors. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

Two young men, highly cultivated in the aesthetic school of Germany, at a time when it was at its height in its elegance and its heathenism, here pour forth unreservedly the fulness of their ardent natures to one another. They do, indeed, show a very high state of culture among the German writers, but we cannot but feel that their transcendental obscurity is a positive advantage, as hiding very erroneous sentiments, and as discouraging any extensive perusal. Art, poetry and science are the real deities of these females. "God is poetry," they say. We have little patience with such chattering.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW YORKER comes to us in a new and beautiful dress. Its engravings of flowers are among the finest and most natural that we have ever seen. Besides matters of the field and garden, its fresh and varied miscellany for family reading is of the best character. It is published weekly, at Rochester, N. Y.