

American Presbyterian

GENESEE EVANGELIST. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1861.

JOHN W. MEARS, Editor.

OUR PAPER.—We are daily receiving accessions to our subscription list; the increase is far greater than at any time since our connection with the paper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS now due, are also coming in, but hardly with such rapidity and promptness as our circumstances require.

THE DELAY in issuing the current number of our paper, is caused entirely by the new arrangements we have been making to improve the appearance of our paper, and to facilitate the business of publishing.

CORRESPONDENTS.—We have a number of interesting communications on hand, including letters from chaplains in the West and at Fort Monroe.

OUR NEW DRESS.

Many of our readers—new subscribers—will see in our present attire for the first time; others will be struck with the change in our external appearance.

THE AMERICAN BOARD.

A very fair indication of the state of religion in our churches is the condition of the American Board. As our people are liberally-minded and prayerful, its resources are sustained and its work prospers.

THE AMERICAN BOARD.

REV. R. G. WILDER AND FAMILY.—Private letters inform us of the safe arrival of this missionary family at Liverpool and London.

THE AMERICAN BOARD.

VAN RIPPER AND CAMP'S BREAD.—This bread, advertised in another column, may be depended upon not only as an entire novelty in the mode of preparing the staff of life, but as a real acquisition to the table; cheap, nutritious, cleanly, and beautiful in appearance.

BLANKETS FOR THE SOLDIERS.

We understand that several pastors of our churches, at the suggestion of Major Crossman, Quartermaster, requested their people to make donations of blankets for the soldiers.

OUR READERS may have seen some statements in different newspapers in relation to an occurrence on the National Fast Day in the First Presbyterian Church, at Harrisburg.

REACHED HOME.—Our readers will not be surprised to hear that the Rev. Amasa Converse, D. D., has reached Richmond, Virginia, and resumed there his Christian Observer.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

This meeting took place in the First Church, Cleveland, commencing Tuesday, October 1st, Mon. Mr. Strong, of this city, in the chair.

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ful, more so than at any other period of their lives. Within a few days after, the large sum, for them, of one thousand dollars was contributed and pledged.

Dr. Perkins, of the Nestorian Mission, made a brief address, confirming the statements of the previous speaker as to the recent developments of a benevolent spirit in the Nestorians, who by nature are extremely indisposed to giving away any of the little money that comes into their possession.

A special report of the Prudential Committee was read, stating that it was evident that the best way of continuing the Foreign Missions was to employ native teachers.

Some persons have thought that the Board should economize by reducing the number of Missions. This the Committee thought was very bad policy, as the influence of such a step would greatly lessen the efficiency of the Missions that are continued, and also probably react injuriously on the influence and welfare of our home churches.

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In common sense, in intelligence and in piety these men and women do us honor. Shall we let them fail for lack of effort on our part? It must not be done.

Mr. Wm. E. Dodge of New York, said he had been one of those who had urged the Board to go forward and trust the churches. He confessed that he had been very doubtful as to the result, and he felt exceedingly grateful for the good success that has unexpectedly attended their efforts.

It is a consoling thought that this Board owed little or none of its support to the South, and the secession of that section has in no way impaired the efficiency of the Board.

Rev. Mr. Marsh, Missionary to Mosul, said the question is, shall we retreat? We have retreated. He had been compelled to come back from Mosul and take charge of a church in Massachusetts, because he could not be sustained in his mission.

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tion to their means. But it is impossible to keep up these missions without liberal assistance from this country.

Mr. W. E. Dodge, from the Committee on Home Department, reported a set of Resolutions. Resolved, 1. That we approve of the proposal of the Committee to discontinue the publication of the Journal of Missions at the close of the current year; believing that an arrangement can be made by which the same amount of missionary intelligence can reach a larger circle of readers through the daily and weekly newspapers.

Resolved, That we deem it indispensable to the success of an enterprise which depends on voluntary contributions, and to which Providence is constantly giving such enlargement, that the young be trained up to understand it, and to respond to its claims.

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mittee to review the Finances of the Board, and report at the next annual meeting. The resolution was adopted.

Judge Strong, of Pa., from the Prudential Committee, made a report on the subject of Economy, giving it as their opinion that it would be had policy to attempt to economize by reducing the number or impairing the strength of the missions.

He introduced a set of resolutions to this effect, recommending all prudent economy, but at the same time advising that the efforts of the Board should not be lessened or retraced.

He felt confident that the people of this country will sustain the American Board in every reasonable effort to extend the area of its operations.

Judge Jessup said that he had come up to this meeting desponding, but here he had received better news. The clouds had disappeared, and he was now confident that now was not a time for retrenchment in the work of the Board.

He had come here desponding, thinking of the disasters that had befallen the country, and the consequent crippling of the Board, and the misery that would ensue among the missions.

But, in traveling through the country he had seen the blessings of God showered liberally all around. Bountiful harvests overpread the land, and yet we talk of withholding the poor pittance accorded for the support of the missions.

Who, that has contributed to the cause of Christ, has become poor in consequence? Who, in all this land, is now suffering because of his liberality in benevolence? Not one! The land is overflowing with wealth.

The farmers of the West are full of the fatness of the earth, and to them we look with full confidence for support. He knew the hearts of the farmers of the West, and he knew that they would not be found wanting at this time of need of the American Board.

He proceeded to speak at length in support of the system of collections in churches and societies suggested in the discussion at the morning session.

Dr. Anderson introduced Father Keep, of Oberlin, eighty years of age, and requested him to address the audience.

Father Keep said that he was a monument before them of God's mercy and grace in being permitted to reach his eightieth year without having experienced a day's sickness. And he would say to his younger friends that he had not seen a day when his heart was not with every work of reform that went in the right direction.

His experience had been that every work of reform that reached success, owed that success to being engrained in the hearts of the people; and he was therefore glad to see that this Board proposed to appeal directly to the hearts of the people themselves.

He would say, in reference to the present war, that it was working for good, and through the assistance of God would result in the increase of religion. He congratulated the Board for the attitude it had taken in the support of the government in its present righteous struggle.

Synod heartily approve the Assembly's plan of Home Missions and Education, and urge upon our Presbyteries immediate action in conformity therewith, calling attention especially to the provision for the appointment of Presbyterial Committees on Home Missions, and to the requirement for an annual contribution from the churches, in behalf of ministerial education.

The special appeal of the Publication Committee for sympathy and aid, deserves the serious attention of all our churches, inasmuch as the circulation of a sound religious literature, at a cheap rate, is an invaluable agency for good, and without the prompt and effective aid of the churches, this important enterprise so happily initiated must soon be abandoned.

REV. FETER S. VAN NEST, late of Iowa City, has accepted an unanimous call from the First Church of Geneva, Walworth Co., Wisconsin, and desires correspondents to address him hereafter at that place.

FAST DAY IN CHICAGO.—Rev. Mr. Humphrey, at the First Presbyterian Church, preached from Psalms lxxvi. 7.—“He reuleth by his power for ever. His eye beholdeth the nations. Let not the rebellious exalt themselves.” His principal theme was the law of revolutions as applied to the present rebellion. In the Second Presbyterian Church, Dr. Patterson preached from Hosea xiv. 9: “O, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God, for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.” The preacher proceeded to demonstrate that the cause of the calamities of the Jews was their idolatry. He contended that this too, was our national sin. Our idols were an outward show of Liberty—National Wealth—National Progress—National Greatness, and a love of power; political and individual. These points were discussed at length and with much force of argument. In the Third Presbyterian Church, after the usual devotional exercises, devotions were made by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Ferris, of the Dutch Reformed Church, E. Van Buren, Esq., Prof. Haven, and others. The occasion was one of deep interest.

REV. DR. THOMPSON, of the Christian Times, at the Business Men's Prayer Meeting in Cincinnati, on Fast-day remarked, that there are just two points to be looked at in order to form a judgment as to the procuring cause of our present deplorable condition. Ist. Where does the stroke of Divine judgment fall? 2d. Whence does it come? It strikes most evidently and emphatically at the existence of our government. This has been our idol. We have forgotten God, and trusted to the power and wisdom of our unequalled political institutions for our prosperity. While other nations and governments were liable to fall and perish, we have imagined that such a calamity was impossible to us. But God is about to teach us that he is on the throne, and that no nation or government can exist without his favor. And whence does our trouble come? It comes from slavery! This is most clearly its source. If we are fathers erected this government, and established our civil liberty, they had also stricken the shackles from the limbs of the slave, do you suppose we would have any rebellion to-day? Certainly not. Repudiating any sympathy with the extreme views and measures of abolitionists, he avowed that it was utterly dishonorable to God to suppose that it was approved of making merchandise of men; or that he would allow it to be done by any nation with impunity.

THE SABBATH IN GEN. BANK'S command is kept with great exactitude. No business, not absolutely necessary, is transacted, and in most of the regiments religious services are held at least once during the day. The only music by the band is that adapted to the occasion.

TENNYSON is expected to write the poem for the opening of the great World's Fair at London, England, during the coming year.

frequently been apparently on the verge of bankruptcy, it has always, in some unexplained manner, come up solvent. From this fact he was encouraged in the belief that God has it under special protection. He was therefore emboldened to believe in its future success.

He alluded to the late Elisha Taylor, of this city, and sketched his connection with the operations of the Board. It was he who initiated the movement of bringing the Board here, though he had a presentiment that he should not be alive to meet the members at the meeting.

In conclusion he bid the Board farewell. The meeting then united in singing two verses of the 551st hymn,

“Shall we whose souls are lighted,” After which was sung the hymn “Blest be the tie that binds.”

The scene at the closing of the meeting was exceedingly impressive, as the immense congregation stood and united in singing the beautiful “Missionary Hymn.” It was a picture that will not soon be forgotten by those who witnessed it. After Benediction by Father Keep, the Board adjourned to meet in Springfield, Mass., on the first Tuesday in October, 1862.

[For the above report, we are mainly indebted to the Cleveland Herald.]

News of our Church.

SYNOODIAL MEETINGS AND ACTS.

THE SYNOD OF WISCONSIN met at Cottage Grove on the 19th ult. The sessions were marked by a high degree of spirituality. After one of the devotional services twelve adults arose to request an interest in our supplications to the throne of grace.

The correspondent of the Evangelist says: The Synod is deeply imbued with a spirit of loyalty and patriotism. Her ministers have given their sons, and her congregations their members, to subdue this causeless and wicked rebellion by force of arms.

It was determined as soon as practicable, to secure a collection from each of our churches for our Publication Committee, and then to establish a Synodical Depository at some suitable point within our boundary.

Some of our brethren in missionary fields have now been six or eight months without aid, and will be compelled to abandon their churches unless relief comes soon.

SYNOD OF IOWA.—This body met recently at Okaloosa. It passed a series of well-considered resolutions on the present state of the country, and the causes leading thereto. The last one of these, views with alarm the increase of Sabbath desecration, and calls upon ministers to put forth immediate and earnest efforts both in the pulpit and elsewhere, that the public conscience may be quickened to duty. Also the following:—

Synod heartily approve the Assembly's plan of Home Missions and Education, and urge upon our Presbyteries immediate action in conformity therewith, calling attention especially to the provision for the appointment of Presbyterial Committees on Home Missions, and to the requirement for an annual contribution from the churches, in behalf of ministerial education.

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