

American Presbyterian

GENESEE EVANGELIST.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1862.

JOHN W. MEARS, Editor.

THE TWO ASSEMBLIES.—PROGRESS OF FRATERNAL FEELING.

The subject of Union was brought before both the Assemblies recently in session at Columbus and Cincinnati, by overtures from the Presbyteries of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence, N. Y., and other bodies which had taken action upon it with a view to the meeting of the Assemblies.

The next day, the clauses referring the subject to the next Assembly were stricken out, by a vote of 88 to 120, and the simple declaration of the inexpediency of any definite action on the subject at this time was adopted.

While the Old School body had thus been passing the subject rather daintily along from day to day, during the whole of the week, our Assembly took it up for the first time, on the same day that Dr. Tustin reported the proposal to open a correspondence.—Thursday, the 22d.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures, in view of the overtures of the Presbyteries of St. Lawrence, San Francisco and others, on Union, reported a series of four resolutions, which we published in our issue of May 29th.

Meantime, the question of immediately sending a delegate to our body came up on Friday morning in the other Assembly. Dr. Davidson requested to have his name omitted as delegate to Cincinnati, for the reason that he wished to speak on the question, which was agreed to.

Rev. Dr. Breckinridge said "he was one of the few surviving men who had been, from the beginning in 1831, identified with the great struggle which ended in the separation of the Church. He took what was called a violent part in the scenes of those days, and now, after years of review, he desired to declare his deliberate approval of the course that he and his brethren pursued."

There are gloomy indications, in our judgment, in regard to the immediate future of the missionary enterprise in Turkey. The new Sultan does not answer the pleasing expectations formed of him at the commencement of his reign. Either the fanaticism of the various sects of the people is increasing, or the Sultan is conniving at its manifestations.

Another report represents Dr. B.'s speech as scarcely so uncompromising, and as containing the following language, not found in the above (which is from the New York Observer): "As this body had initiated the action which resulted in separation, it was proper it should initiate the first steps toward a reconciliation; but he would propose this method: he would send a minute to that body, proposing, if it was agreeable to them, to hold friendly intercourse through the agency of corresponding delegates."

was offered by Rev. Dr. Tustin, the chairman of the committee, and unanimously adopted. We publish it for our own people and for the benefit of the Old School of this city, as it has not yet appeared in the columns of the Presbyterian.

"In the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, in session at Columbus, Ohio, the matter of a fraternal correspondence, by Commissioners, with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (N. S.), in session at Cincinnati, Ohio, being duly considered, is decided as follows:

"This Assembly, having considered certain overtures sent to it by a few of the Presbyteries under its care, proposing that steps should be taken by it towards an organic union between this Church and the Church under the care of the Presbyterian General Assembly (N. S.); and, having determined against the course proposed in said overtures, has also been informed that the other General Assembly has, about the same time, come to a similar conclusion on similar overtures laid before it by a certain number of its own Presbyteries.

We need not say that this Christian and courteous act of recognition and offer of fraternal correspondence gives us great pleasure. It is just ground of thankfulness to the great Head of the Church as removing a scandal from the Christian and Presbyterian name. We do not see why such a simple act of recognition might not have been done long ago—certainly there was nothing in the attitude of our denomination to hinder or discourage the undertaking.

PREBYTERIAN UNION ABROAD.

Our readers need not to have their attention specially called to the excellent letters of our London correspondent, one of which will be found on our first page this week. This letter introduces us to the inner relations of the Presbyterian bodies of England to each other, and reveals the progress they have made towards the consummation of a union during the ecclesiastical year. It is not, seemingly, very marked; in fact, it is somewhat disappointing to enthusiastic persons who see in union only what is good and desirable, and who forget that in the marriage of religious bodies much must be left to Providence, and that the indications of Providence must be carefully studied.

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embraced Christianity, but the native helper at that place writes to Mr. Bliss, at Constantinople, March 10th, as follows:

"In regard to our own condition, I feel that it is very trying. We hear of threats of violence from all quarters. The Turks are greatly incensed against us, and when they pass my house they stop and say to each other, 'This is the Protestant's house;' and when they pass my shop, also, they turn their eyes so fiercely upon me, you would think they wished to kill me. It is only of the Lord's mercies that we are yet alive.

COUNT DE GASPARIN'S NEW BOOK ON AMERICA.

This earnest and clear-headed friend of our country in the present crisis, has given new evidence of the firmness and strength of his attachments and of the Christian soundness and independence of his judgment, by a new work which he has just issued and which is thus noticed by Dr. McClintock in his last Paris letter to the Methodist, May 27th.

The work is divided into six parts, the first is entitled 'Europe.' Under this head are discussed the attitude of Europe toward America during the civil war, the question of belligerent rights, and the blockade.

What ought to have been the attitude of Europe is sharply put by De Gasparin as follows:—"We might have predicted that the cause of the South would have excited the vigorous indignation of Europe; that a revolt in behalf of slavery would receive nothing but anathemas from the Old World; that the nineteenth century would not lose the opportunity of seconding the most glorious work of modern times."

In subsequent chapters, De Gasparin treats specially of the attitude of England, of her early recognition of belligerent rights, of her aristocratic desire for the breaking up of the American Government, of the failure of her Christian anti-slavery people to see through the deceptions practiced upon them by the politicians and the Times newspaper, and of the vastness of the mistake which England has made in her conduct, as a whole, toward America, during the civil war.

The fifth part is an earnest appeal to the American people, urging them to appreciate fully the grandeur of the present crisis, and to act worthily of themselves, of their causes, and of the age. The sixth and last part is an address to "Christians," both in Europe and America. I have neither time nor space for a further analysis of this noble and wonderful book; for it is nothing short of wonderful as coming from a foreigner, writing in Switzerland, upon current events in America. The secret of De Gasparin's clear vision lies in his "singleness of eye." He believes in God.

MR. BROWNLOW'S RECEPTION.

THE sufferings of the loyal men of East Tennessee for their country, will form a prominent part of the history of this eventful period. The loyal people of the North welcome every opportunity of testifying their appreciation of these martyr-services to the good cause. They see in such men as Mr. Brownlow and Hon. Mr. Maynard, from that section, the representatives of a patriotism which has been tested and proved by the severest ordeals. There is a heroic grandeur in their actions, and our hearts are drawn out to their noble and noble spirits.

This rebellion; and as he turned, with a fresh burst of vehemence, upon those of the North who are base enough to sympathize with these diabolical traitors and murderers, we felt that a more crushing rebuke or a more awful warning had never before been administered to a deluded set of men.

Several other addresses were made during the evening, the most able of all being that of the Secretary of the Interior, Hon. Caleb Smith, who well and nobly represented the administration on the occasion. The unconditional surrender of the rebels in arms, and the capital punishment of their leaders, were declared by Mr. Smith to be indispensable. The fervid manner, the pure and exalted sentiments, and the fine language of the Secretary, made a favorable impression for the administration, and completely carried away the audience, which, in fact, throughout the whole evening, were never better pleased than when the most summary measures against the rebel leaders were advocated.

Mr. Maynard, however, touched apparently the deepest chord when he gave his hearty, unreserved and comprehensive approval of the character and policy of President LINCOLN. The enthusiasm of the audience at this point seemed boundless, and Mr. M. with difficulty resumed his remarks.

It is well known that Mr. Maynard is a member of the "United Synod" or New School Church of the South. We congratulate him that he has not been carried away by the sophistries of the leaders of the movement of 1857, to a disregard of his constitutional obligations to his country. And we trust that the true loyalty of himself and his brethren in East Tennessee is an indication of a real unity of sentiment existing between us and them, which ere long will lead to the restoration of our suspended Church Relations.

HOME MISSIONS.

On application, made by the churches they serve, the following ministers were commissioned by the Presbyterian Committee of Home Missions, at their last regular meeting: Rev. W. M. Fitch, Camp Point, Ill.

The churches in this city already begin to show the effect of the summer migration. June is so attractive, in its blossoms, and flowers, and green pastures, that but few who can retire from "brick walls and paving stones" at any time, hesitate to improve it in "leafy June."

The war has taken away large numbers of church members. Especially has the recent draft of four or five regiments from this city taken many active and energetic christians. Every church in this city has from twenty to a hundred of their members in the army.

THE meeting of the General Assembly at Cincinnati must have been deeply interesting. Not more so, however, than the previous one at Syracuse. There were two members present there not to be forgotten—Rev. Dr. Cox, always ready to give point to debate or with great fluency of language to interest and delight his audience, although, at times, at the expense of related business.

It is with the profoundest gratitude, that we record the mercy of God, in His dealings with our beloved Church, during the period which this Narrative reviews. Just a quarter of a century has elapsed since that act of excision, which divided the Presbyterian Church; and which, in their determination to maintain certain constitutional principles, secured, for the Synods of Geneva, Utica, Genesee, and Western Reserve, embracing at that time but twenty-four Presbyteries, the historic distinction of beginning our denominational greatness.

Twenty-second street, where Rev. Dr. Van Ness and himself were so happily united, in draped in mourning. Last Sabbath Rev. Mr. Thompson, his successor, delivered a discourse, in which the deceased was largely eulogized and affectionately remembered. Dr. B. was a man of the tenderest sensibilities and warmest heart. He was absolutely necessary to the personal comfort of his helpless wife, whom he has nursed with the most watchful solicitude for many years.

The Churchman newspaper, it is said, is to be revived, and the High Church party will thus have an organ. The paper was a most expensive enterprise, printed on the finest paper, and of a large amount of editorial talent employed. Hecker's, brothers, who footed the bills, are Englishmen, millers of large wealth—one a High Churchman after the straightest of the Oxford school, and the other a Romanist. With such men to direct its tone and form its character, it is easy to divine what the paper will become.

It was hardly to be expected, in view of the depressed condition of the business of the country, that the various causes of Christian benevolence would hold their own; but the spirit, which of late has so wonderfully visited our foreign missionary stations, seems to have become more or less breathed upon our churches at home; and, besides exciting them, to have induced in a measure the systematizing of our charities.

CHURCH RELATIONS IN THE CIVIL OUTRAYS.

The Fifth Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg—Its Transfer to the Presbytery of Ohio—Opinion of the Synod of Pennsylvania—Chief Justice Lowry—Presbytery of Ohio and Central Presbyterian Church—Responsibility—Mr. Jefferson.

In the year 1850 a difficulty occurred in that church, which resulted in a "segregation." A part of the church, with the pastor, withdrew from the Presbytery of Pittsburg, and placed themselves under the "watch and care" of the Presbytery of Ohio, old school. The seceders being in the majority, claimed and kept the church property. No effort was made to deprive them of it. Ultimately the Fifth Church became extinct, and a new church was organized by a committee of the Presbytery of Ohio, and was called the Central Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Edw. Ross, a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania calls up an incident in the history of the Fifth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg. In the year 1850 a difficulty occurred in that church, which resulted in a "segregation." A part of the church, with the pastor, withdrew from the Presbytery of Pittsburg, and placed themselves under the "watch and care" of the Presbytery of Ohio, old school.

Chief Justice Lowry is an elder in the Old School Presbyterian Church, of unquestioned orthodoxy, and his "opinion" is entitled to much confidence. He was also a member of the Ex-communicating Assembly in 1857, lives in the immediate vicinity of Pittsburg, was aware of the transfer of the property of the Fifth Church, and was probably familiar with all the facts in the "case." He delivered the opinion of the Superior Court at Harrisburg, a few weeks ago, in the "case of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Philadelphia."

ANNUAL NARRATIVE.

Of the State of Religion within the bounds of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, May, 1862.

It is with the profoundest gratitude, that we record the mercy of God, in His dealings with our beloved Church, during the period which this Narrative reviews. Just a quarter of a century has elapsed since that act of excision, which divided the Presbyterian Church; and which, in their determination to maintain certain constitutional principles, secured, for the Synods of Geneva, Utica, Genesee, and Western Reserve, embracing at that time but twenty-four Presbyteries, the historic distinction of beginning our denominational greatness.

denunciation which they confess and deplore; and the strongest confidence that, whatever may be their present trials or discouragements, the Great Head of the Church, will, in some way, work out in them, and through them, His purposes of infinite mercy.

Revolutions have not been general within our bounds during the year past, nor unusually powerful. In some few instances large gatherings are reported; while upon many places, and, as it is pleasing to know, upon several of our literary institutions, the dews of the Spirit have descended refreshingly. These gracious manifestations succeeded almost uniformly close upon the observance of the days of prayer appointed by the last Assembly.

The most happy results are mentioned as having attended special efforts for the conversion of children and youth. An increased engagedness in the work of Sabbath school and catechetical instruction, is a noticeable and gratifying fact; and it seems to be the clear indication of God's providence and spirit that this department of Christian labor shall be assiduously prosecuted as the grand hope alike of the Church and the world.

The promises, through the Presbyteries, of such sympathy and aid as may be needed to extend the privileges of a preached Gospel and a sanctified literature, according to the openings of Providence, are gratefully acknowledged. In some sections the plan of presbyterian missions has been tried with encouraging success; and, like the mission school system in our populous cities and towns, has resulted in the salvation of many souls yet to be gathered and organized into churches.

For reasons growing out of the state of the country, less than usual has been done during the past year in the matter of erecting houses of worship. Several have been repaired and improved, and a few new ones have been built. Church debts have been in some instances largely reduced, in others entirely liquidated.

It is sad to learn how wide-spread and deepening is the evil of Intemperance. With scarcely an exception the Presbyteries report that this terrible body and soul killing vice is alarmingly rife. The interests of humanity, and the preservation of those whose spiritual welfare is committed to our care, demand that we arouse to new efforts for suppressing the use and the sale of intoxicating drinks.

Among the reported evidences of external prosperity in certain quarters is the increased attendance upon Sabbath-day worship, particularly on the morning service.

It is to be regretted that this improvement is not more general and thorough. In society at large there is a lamentable, if not a growing, amount of Sabbath desertion; and multitudes of professors of religion practice upon the mischievous false sentiment, that a single attendance at the sanctuary discharges their obligations to "remember the Sabbath-day and keep it holy."

No one acquainted with the history and spirit of our denomination could have doubted that a characteristic loyalty to constitutional principles, would be naturally and logically followed by loyalty to the National Government. It has accordingly been the case, as the Narrative of the Presbytery of the District of Columbia will observe, that "the religion of our churches during the past year has been summoned by our Divine Lord into a new field of activities. The life of the nation has been in imminent peril; and with this everything sacred in the Church was at stake. The question has been, Shall we have a free Church, an open Bible, a free Press, and a land of universal liberty, or the reverse."

"We have felt that with the loss of our national life, we not only surrender our republican institutions, but the rights and hopes of the world. Appreciating this, our pastors have endeavored to render more plain the immutable principles of divine government over us; and have not failed to proclaim that 'the powers that be are ordained of God,' and to pray for all our constituted authorities, and for the success of our national arms in the struggle to secure law and order and peace in our land."

We recognize with devout thanksgiving to Almighty God, His favor upon us, not only in the national successes granted in answer to prayer, but also in that overruling of the developed patriotism of our people, by which it has been made a means to the end of a higher sanctification, and directly a means in the salvation of souls.

During the past year it has pleased the Great Head of the Church to transfer, from an earthly to a heavenly service, the following brethren in the ministry, viz: Henry A. Post, of Presbytery of Troy. Bath. B. Coleman Smith, Bath.

This large reduction of our ministerial force is impressively suggestive. "The night cometh, when no man can work." Shall not we, who continue to be present, renew our consecration to His service, whose out-poured blessing of the Holy Spirit is the desire of every Christian, the great need of the Church, and the only salvation of a lost world?

By order of the General Assembly, GEORGE DUFFIELD, Moderator. EDWIN F. HATFIELD, Stated Clerk.

New Publications.

MR. BRADBURY, the eminent composer, is developing a large part of his activity to the children. He has just issued from No. 421 Broome street, New York, a new music book for the Sabbath school and the family—the Golden Shower, which is full of gems and choice pieces.

"Tragedy of Success" is a new, and we opine, concluding volume of a series issued by Ticknor & Fields, of Boston, designed to exhibit the subtler workings of slavery in its domestic aspects, as well as to vindicate the enslaved race from the sweeping charge of callousness and stupidity entertained against it by Northern as well as Southern people. The plot is skillfully laid, the denouement is startling, the style is clear and unexceptionable, and the aim—to aid in removing odious, unjust and unchristian prejudices against a brother race of man—is noble.

"The Game Fish of the North," is a complete manual for the angler in our waters, conveying a great deal of valuable information upon the haunts and habits of fishes sought by the sportsman, and upon the method of capturing them, interspersed with a delightful variety of anecdote and adventure. It will doubtless be a favorite with those who seek amusement with rod and line. New York, Carleton. For sale by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia.

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"John Doe and Richard Roe," is a tale of New York life by Ed. S. Gould, which has been appearing serially in the Home Journal, and is now published complete by Carleton. For sale by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia.

"Children's Picture Book of the Sagacity of Animals," was received some time ago, but the very delay which has attended this notice, arose from a speedy perception of its merits by our juveniles, who appropriated it and devoured its contents with unusual relish, removing it for the time being from our reach. We accept the decision of the children, and commend it as combining a large amount of curious instruction with a pure and delightful entertainment. Abundantly and admirably illustrated. Harper & Brothers, New York.

THE ELECTRIC, for June, has an unusually rich table of contents, especially full on Natural Science. There are in this department articles on Astronomy, Forbes the Naturalist, the Phosphorescence of the Sea, the Sun and Solar Phenomena, Humming Birds, Monthly Science and Art. Besides these, there are articles on the City of the Sun, Recent Revolutions in the Papal States, and others of less note. The portrait of Prince Albert is uncommonly fine, and will be well received in this country as that of one of the few friends of America in high places in England. W. H. Bidwell, No. 6 Beekman st., New York.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW, for April, is a solid number. The contents are: Jesse's Arch, the Third; Centralization; Guessard's Carovingian Romances; Recent Researches in Buddhism; Modern Domestic Service; Mommsen's Roman History; Cotton in India; Alison's Castlereagh and Stewart; Public Monuments; David Gray; Clerical Subscription. New York: L. Scott & Co. Philad.: W. B. Zieber.

ANOTHER MINISTER'S SON.—Jos. Addison McCool, son of Rev. Jos. McCool, of Pottsville, Pa., is First Lieutenant and Regimental Quartermaster in the Third United States Infantry, regular army.

THE laborer is worthy of his hire.