American Presbyterian

—AND—

GENESEE EVANGELIST.

JOHN W. MEARS, ... Editor

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1862.

THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN,
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Religious Intelligence.

Rev. Dr. Plumer and His Congregation.—We find in the Pittsburg *United Presbyterian* an account of the troubles in the Central Church, Pittsburg, arising from the unpatriotic attitude of its pastor in reference to our national struggle. The *Presbyterian* says:

"A few months ago murmurs of dissatisfaction began to be heard at the omission on the part of the pastor, of any distinct mention of our national troubles in the prayers of the sanctuary."

In April, Dr. Plumer refused to take notice of the President's proclamation, calling upon the Churches to observe a day of thanksgiving for our late victories. A congregational meeting followed, at which, however, the loyal part of the people failed to carry their point against the pastor. They then withdrew temporarily, and appealed to the Presbytery of Allegheny city, in a memorial, which represents the conduct of Dr. P. at the Congregational meeting in a very unfavorable light. The Presbytery accordingly met and heard the correspondence which had taken place between the parties.

Dr. Plumer contended in his letters that any allusion to the present national conflict would be to introduce politics into the pulpit, a thing which he never did and never would do. He contended, moreover, that no number of victories could ever restore peace to the country, but would only intensify the exasperation of the vanquished party, therefore he could not give thanks for victories in the present war. He alluded to the fact that there were members of his congregation who have relatives in the rebel States, and even in the rebel armies, and that thanksgiving for victories gained by the forces of the nation could not be otherwise than painful to the feelings of such persons. He contended that he was loyal to his Government, and that, as a citizen, he had written and spoken for twenty-five years in defence of the Union. But in all his three or four letters there is not one word of condemnation of those who are in arms against the Government now—they are nowhere spoken of as insurgents, rebels, or traitors; but the idea seems to run through the whole argument, that they have as good a right to fight against us as we have to fight against them—that both parties are wrong, and that this is a "wicked war."

A Committee of the Presbytery, of which Dr. Swift was chairman, prepared a minute expression of the views of Presbytery, which was unanimously adopted, the gist of which is contained in the second resolution, as follows:

"That when in the providence of God, our country is involved in a most calamitous and deplorable civil war, it is eminently proper that the instructions and supplications of the sanctuary should, at proper times, have reference to the existing state of things, and that as Christians and church officers, we should hail with grateful satisfaction the call of our Government to acts of Christian devotion, such as fasting, prayer and thanksgiving, and should yield our cheerful obedience thereto; and Presbytery, therefore, see nothing improper in the anxiety manifested by these memorialists, to have such a direction given to the devotions of their sanctuary."

A committee was also appointed to confer with the parties, and to endeavor to reconcile their differences, and to report at a meeting of Presbytery on the Second Tuesday of July next.

Further Advances towards Union.—The Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, at its recent meeting, adopted unanimously the following minute on a correspondence with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, (N. S.):

Whereas, This Synod considers the interchange of Christian courtesy and kindness between ecclesiastical bodies as most desirable wherever it can be practicable and hearty, even when differences of doctrinal view may preclude that form of correspondence contemplated in chapter II., article V., section 3, of our constitution.

Resolved, That this Synod send to the next New School General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church a commissioner, whose office it shall be to assure that body of our fraternal affection and interest, and to propose to it a yearly interchange of kind expressions by letter.

The Synod appointed Rev. H. D. Ganse commissioner under the the resolution, and Rev. D. D. Demarest, D.D., his *secundus*.

In reference to the mode of correspondence with the Old School Assembly, Synod also adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the delegate to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church be directed respectfully to suggest to that body the propriety of having all correspondence between that church and this carried on by letter.

The *Christian Intelligencer* expresses its satisfaction in regard to the above movement on cordial terms. It says: "If the brethren whom the action concerns will suffer us to say so, we rejoice all the more in this kind advance of our Synod because it is made over ground that has been counted debatable. If there were no points over which they and we could quarrel if we chose, we should count it far less important to ourselves and the world that we should exchange acts of affection. Different views there are sure to be. It is wicked to make them a factitious barrier in the way of real sympathy. It is folly to ignore them. But to recognize them, and to love in spite of them, is to come as near the temper of Christ as fallible men can. We have greatly over-estimated the influence of our own Synod, and of the body we approach, if a hearty intercourse between them, on this express ground, shall not go further to illustrate Christian charity, and to confound the chief argument of scorners, than the actual coalescence of the largest masses on the basis of an identical creed."

In regard to a written correspondence—a measure which strikes us strangely—it says: "This method, of course, loses the advantages which result from the friendly interviews of individual ministers with the respective bodies. But the correspondence by letter promises such a definite gain, especially in the distinctness and permanence of the yearly salutations, that the Synod was quite unanimous in proposing it."

Germany, through her evangelical journals and through a class of observers of less prejudice and better range of view than formerly, is receiving beneficial impressions from other portions of Evangelical Christendom. In a file of papers for the month of April, recently received from Berlin, we find Pastor Fisch's observations on the religious condition of our own country, translated from the French and presented from week to week, with intelligent and friendly comments by the German editor. We also find the report of the truly great work of the New York Sabbath Committee, held up as an example of what needs to be done for the Sabbath-breaking population of Germany. Especially, says the editor, may we learn from the practical Americans to seek associates in our work, among such as do not appreciate the religious grounds of the movement. "The blessed influence of a day of rest from toil upon the *social condition* of large classes of the population, is so plain, that it only needs to be brought home to the consideration of the people in order to meet in an age which prides itself on its humanity, with a general response. The religious blessing would not be withheld could we but secure a civil Sabbath.

A little treatise has also appeared in Frankfort-on-the-Maine, upon the English (more properly Irish) revival, and the need of it in Germany. It is from the pen of a layman of the Lutheran Church,—a denomination which has stood upon its dignity in Germany until it is likely to be left with nothing else to stand on. The writer says that "after a careful investigation of the facts, he cannot understand why that important movement met with so little response in Germany." He expresses his amazement at the manner in which the denominations who participate in the revivals in England and America have been charged with heresy and branded with every term of reprobation, and the Lutheran Church declared to be alone capable of a truly evangelical revival, while not a thought is given to the question What is to become of the thousands and tens of thousands of souls, not reached by that Church as at present constituted. He rebukes the spirit which would find fault with the labors of a Cartwright in the backwoods of America, among the lost sheep of the wilderness, enduring privations of every kind, and journeying thousands of miles during a ministry of half a century.

The writer is especially and justly severe upon that view of the work of the ministry still held, to some extent, by German Lutherans, to the effect that the lost irreligious multitudes are not to *be followed up and sought out* by pastors, but that it is sufficient that churches are open, and ministers accessible to any one who may be impelled to them by spiritual necessities. Let them send for the preacher if they want him! How contrary to the lesson which every child learns in the catechism, of the good Shepherd who came *to seek and to save* the wandering sheep! The notion, too, that Lutheran correctness forbids the employment of the lay-element in the work of the Church, he denounces as a most shameful confession of poverty and insolvency—nay, rather as a sentence of death against the Church, if true.

As it is beyond question a fact that most of the churches are in a low state of piety, the writer presses the inquiry, What must be done to promote a revival of religion. First, he requires a more direct and briefer method of preaching. Next, out-of-door preaching and increase of pastoral labor. He goes down to the root of the matter when he speaks of the inadequate methods of ministerial training pursued in the schools, universities and seminaries. A mere accumulation of theological acquirements and a negative morality, are insufficient as a preparation to meet the fearfully great and increasing spiritual wants of the masses. He asks: Can the absolute abandonment of the student to subjective pursuits, the want of training in the practical matters of life, qualify him for those labors and conflicts which, in England, are carried on in the field, and with the implements of, the revival, and which with us *must* be carried on, in some way or other?

Finally, he expresses his conviction as a layman, that if new powers and instrumentalities are not opened in some quarter, a lessening of the spiritual needs of the time is not to be expected or thought of; much rather the increase of the evil beyond any possible increase of help is certain. The laity must come to the rescue and perform such pastoral and preaching services as they have done in the revival in England, and as has been done to some extent in Germany, under the auspices of the Inner Mission. "Consider," he exclaims to his fellow-Lutherans, "whether at the day of judgment inquiry will be made after a certain Lutheran correctness, or in regard to the salvation of thousands of souls, who for the sake of this correctness perished under the very eyes of their correct Lutheran pastors!"

These are evidences of a wholesome reaction communicated from the practical Christianity of the Anglo-Saxon races to the German Church, which has been so sunk in speculation, as, until lately, to have seemed almost totally unaware of the multitudes hastening past her to destruction. It is a process which cannot but be profitable to both participants.

Statistics.—PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.—The following table gives the number of communicants in each diocese:

New York,	26,854	Georgia,	2,184
Pennsylvania,	16,159	Vermont,	2,114
Connecticut,	12,184	Alabama,	1,866
Western New York,	11,711	Louisiana,	1,798
Maryland,	10,928	Maine,	1,483
Massachusetts,	8,266	Tennessee,	1,395
Virginia,	7,990	Mississippi,	1,356
South Carolina,	6,126	Indiana,	1,270
Ohio,	6,068	Missouri,	1,163
New Jersey,	5,955	Delaware,	1,077
Rhode Island,	3,396	Iowa,	989
Illinois,	3,146	Minnesota,	863
Michigan,	3,079	New Hampshire,	843
Wisconsin,	2,929	Texas,	812
North Carolina,	2,792	California,	654
Kentucky,	2,502	Florida,	641

THE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, at the time of the Synod of 1861, had 31 Classes, answering to Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church, with 422 churches, 411 ministers, and 7 candidates, or licentiates, making but 4 less ministers than there are churches, and giving an average of 13 ministers and a fraction over to each Classis. There are also three Particular Synods, namely, those of New York, Albany and Chicago, with an average of about 10 Classes in each. The number of families connected with these churches was 33,154; of communicants, 50,295, or less than 2 to a family; number of catechumens, Bible class and Sabbath School scholars, 64,717; raised for benevolent objects, $151,738 20, being about $3 for each communicant; for congregational purposes, $382,506 22, or more than $7 50 to each communicant.

The Rev. Mr. Kennard, son of the Rev. Joseph H. Kennard, D.D., of Philadelphia, has resigned his charge of the E Street Baptist Church, Washington City, on account of divisions among his congregation on the affairs of the country.

Army.

The Staff Officer's Testimony.—An officer of the Staff of Major-General Grant, was recently in the Fulton Street Prayer Meeting. He said he had been down with a long illness of typhus fever, and all his energy and force of life had been worn out of him by the energy of disease. It had been a long time since he had been permitted to be in a prayer meeting. He had been in the Southwestern army, in two of the bloody engagements in Tennessee. We have got to fight this fight out, said the officer, to the bitter end. The war is not over, and will not be, even with the gaining of one or two more great victories. The delusion must not be indulged that the war is almost over.

The great body of the Confederate soldiers do not know what they are fighting for. Many of their army are mere boys, like this boy sitting here before me,—mere striplings. I have been obliged to order my men to fire on them, and when they have been wounded and taken prisoners, I have asked them what they were here for. They said their parents had sent them to the war to fight "Linkin" and the Abolitionists, and that was all they knew about it. Such is the blindness of the leaders of this rebellion and the obsequiousness and ignorance of the great body of the people, that the war will be protracted for a long time to come.

The great matter of special interest to you as a prayer meeting, is the great work of the Holy Spirit, which is going forward in the army. We have some good chaplains in the army, and wherever a good and faithful chaplain is found, there you will find that God blesses his labors. We want no chaplains who have not the love of souls in their hearts. We want no chaplains who contrive always to be on the sick list and away at home on furlough, and yet drawing their pay for doing nothing. We want no such chaplains; we have some such, I am sorry to say.

But we have some men who love their work; who love the care of souls; who bear heavy burdens on their hearts, praying, loving, earnest men, and the boys of a regiment soon find out when they have such a man, and they lay their hearts open to such men. The most wicked men in the regiment know that such a chaplain longs for their salvation, and cannot resist their kindness.

You have heard that we have conversions in the camps. Yes, we have many; men have turned to the Lord who never thought of doing it at home. Never was a field of labor so promising as that in the camp for faithful men to occupy. We have a great many pious officers and pious soldiers in the regiments, and where they have a well instructed chaplain to combine the spiritual forces of a regiment, these men become clothed with amazing power. You pray for the army. I have been gratified that all the prayers I have heard offered, the army has been remembered.—*New York Obs.*

Rev. Robt. Irwin, Jr., has resigned his position as chaplain of the Forty-sixth regiment Indiana Volunteers (Col. G. N. Fitch) owing to ill health contracted during the winter campaign.

Domestic News.

Congressional.—In the *Senate*, June 17th, the House amendment to the bill increasing the volunteer medical force, abolishing the office of Brigade Surgeon, was agreed to. A new Conference Committee was ordered on the bill providing certain bounties, &c. Mr. Chandler, of Michigan, offered a resolution, which was laid over, declaring that the amount of legal tender notes already authorised shall never be increased. The Pacific Railroad bill was then taken up and discussed until the adjournment. The bill was amended so as to fix the commencement of the road on the one hundredth parallel of latitude, within the territory of Nebraska.

In the *House*, a bill to amend the Patent Office law was passed. It makes a different arrangement of the internal affairs of the office. The Confiscation bill was reported back from the Special Committee on the subject, exactly as it was referred to them. The bill to authorise the issue of additional Treasury Notes was considered in Committee of the Whole as the special order, and Mr. Spaulding, of New York, made a speech advocating its immediate passage. The Senate's substitute for Mr. Arnold's bill, which forever prohibits slavery in the territories, was concurred in.

In *Senate*, June 18th, Mr. Grimes offered a resolution that in the opinion of the Senate it is the right and duty of the Government to call loyal persons within the rebellious States to its armed defence against the traitors who are seeking its overthrow. It was laid over. Mr. Saulsbury offered a joint resolution adjourning Congress on the 30th day of June, which was laid over. Mr. Hale introduced a bill, that when necessary to make further enlistments, the President is authorised to call on all persons, without distinction of race, color or condition, to enlist in the army; that every slave enlisted shall be ever thereafter free, and entitled to all the privileges of other soldiers. The bill was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. A bill was offered to remodel the Courts of the District of Columbia. The Pacific Railroad bill was discussed, but no vote was taken.

The *House* resumed consideration of the bill to free from servitude the slaves of certain rebels engaged in the existing rebellion. A vote was nearly reached on the passage of the bill, when the time arrived for taking up the special order. Mr. Stevens moved that the special order be postponed one hour. Agreed to, 78 against 60. Mr. Richardson moved to proceed to the business on the Speaker's table. Lost—Yeas, 43; Nays, 88. The question having been decided in the negative, the bill for the emancipation of the slaves of rebels was read and passed. Yeas 82; Nays, 54. The bill provides for the emancipation of the slaves of all officers of the rebel army and navy; of all high officers of State, Judges, Foreign Ministers and Consuls; of Governors and members of State Conventions, Legislatures and Judiciary: of all who have held office under the United States who take office in Rebel States; of all who hold any office or agency whatever under the Confederate States accepted since the adoption of the Secession ordinance of the State in which such person resides; of every person who, after the passage of this act, shall be in rebellion against the United States, and who shall not within sixty days return to allegiance. All the above specified persons are disqualified from holding office under the United States. The President is authorised to negotiate for territory whereon to colonise the liberated slaves. After a short discussion on the new Treasury Note-issue bill, the House adjourned.

The Report of the Committee of Conference on the Tax bill was concurred in by both Houses on last Monday. There are few important alterations in it as it came from the Senate. The *Senate* passed the bill for the better government of the Navy, and then took up the Confiscation bill.

The *House* was engaged on the bill authorizing the issue of $150,000,000 in U. S. Treasury notes.

Both Houses have passed a Pacific Railroad bill. The President has signed the bill prohibiting slavery forever in all existing, or hereafter to be acquired territories, and it is a LAW of the land.

No Military movement of any great importance has yet taken place before the rebel capital. There is good reason to believe that the rebels have been largely reinforced, and there is every evidence that they will make a determined resistance to the advance of our forces. Recent intelligence speaks of guerilla parties as still hovering in the rear of our army, some of them on the opposite side of the Pamunkey river, their object being the destruction of the shipping. Ten of the most prominent citizens remaining between the Chickahominy and the Pamunkey had been arrested, under the belief that they had given information upon which the rebels have operated in the rear and on the right flank.

Brig. Gen. Birney, who, through a pure misapprehension, was "relieved of his command," by order of Gen. Heintzelman, at the battle of Fair Oaks, has, we are happy to state, been entirely exonerated and restored by decision of court martial, approved by Gen. McClellan.

Our Loss at Cross Keys.—The total number of killed, wounded and missing in the whole force of General Fremont, in the recent battle at Cross Keys was killed, 105; wounded, 386; missing, 126—aggregate, 617.

Where is Beauregard?—This is a difficult question to answer. The New York *Times*, referring to the evacuation of Corinth, says "that though twenty days have elapsed since that event, we have yet nothing clearer than a lot of disjointed statements locating it here there and everywhere. The ten thousand men said to have been captured by Pope is ascertained to have been a highly exaggerated statement of that dashing General's achievement, and though our cavalry were reported to be everywhere "in hot pursuit," and though Pope is now announced to be forty miles south of Corinth, it has not yet been ascertained where a single one of the rebel division has gone to. The possible lines of retreat for them were very few, and we know that they must have gone southward, and then probably east. But how far south, and to what point or points in the east? Information on this subject is awaited for by the public with the greatest anxiety. We have no doubt that if Halleck had not expelled all correspondents of the press from his lines, they would have informed us, and him too, long ago, of the location of every brigade of the rebel army."

Richmond papers say that Beauregard and staff were at Montgomery, Ala., on the 17th, on the way to Richmond, and were followed by a large part of the army at Corinth, with the same destination. It seems also to be true that the defences of Mobile have been strengthened by portions of this army. Gen. Bragg is left in Mississippi. Our own troops have desisted from pursuit, and General Pope has come northward on a furlough.

General Fremont.—Reliable information has been received at headquarters that Jackson has been reinforced a second time by 12,000 men. General Fremont is in a very exposed condition, in danger of being overwhelmed by a vastly superior force. No reinforcements are on the way to him. It is believed that much of the Corinth army is about to be sent to the Shenandoah Valley, with its immense supplies of wheat, until after harvest time. Gen. Shields has fallen back from Luray, east of Harrisonburg, to Strasburg. The Rebel General Ewell, with a strong force, entered Luray soon after our troops left. June 17th, Arrivals to-night from New Market bring intelligence that Fremont was about to advance to New Market, seven miles south of Mount Jackson and opposite the gap in the Massanutten mountain, through which the road leads to Luray. Jackson is believed to have a considerable force of light troops in Harrisonburg, while another body is at or near Port Republic.

The South and Southwest.

The Shipments to the North from Memphis on June 17th, comprised 3000 bales of cotton, 5000 barrels and 3000 half barrels of molasses and 6000 barrels of sugar. There was a large supply coming in yesterday.

On the first day the post office was opened in Memphis the citizens mailed one thousand letters, mostly on business to the Northern cities, and purchased $3000 worth of postage stamps.

There were upwards of one hundred applications for post-office clerkships, including the entire force employed under the Confederate rule. Provost Marshal Gould recently administered the oath of allegiance to 3000 persons, including one hundred and fifty deserters from the rebel army, five of whom were commissioned officers.

Victory on the White River.—On the 17th four of our gunboats, with transports carrying two Indiana regiments, went up the White River (which empties into the Mississippi from the Arkansas shore, about midway between Vicksburg and Memphis,) 85 miles, to St. Charles, Arkansas county, where the rebels had a battery of seven or eight guns, manned by four or five hundred infantry, under the command of Col. Frye, a renegade from our navy. The steam drum of the *Mound City* was pierced by a shot from the batteries, and over one hundred of her crew and officers perished from the effects of her escaping steam. Col. Fitch, with the 46th Indiana, then stormed the batteries and carried them with small loss, capturing thirty prisoners, among whom was Col. Frye. The object of the expedition is not clear.

Movements of Armies.—Major General Buell, heretofore with Major General Halleck in Mississippi, has started with his whole army for East Tennessee, by way of Huntsville.

Gen. Lew. Wallace has taken command at Memphis. The *Argus* newspaper, which, since the capture, has persisted in expressing sympathy with the rebellion, has been seized, and put under the supervision of correspondents of Northern journals in the city. The steamboats going north are loaded to their utmost capacity with freight and passengers. The oath of allegiance was administered to over 400 men in one day, half of whom had been soldiers.

Gen. Halleck's forces have seized Holly Springs, Miss., a place westward of Corinth, where machinery for manufacturing and repairing rebel arms has been in operation. It had previously been removed to Atlanta, Ga.

Col. Chas. Ellet, Jr., who both devised and led the ram fleet in its triumphant attack upon the rebels before Memphis and who was wounded in the engagement, has we are sorry to learn since died of the wound and of disease together. We believe he is the only one on our side who has lost his life in consequence of that engagement.

"How wonderfully" says the correspondent of the Boston Journal, "has the river been repossessed! The fleet lost not a man at No. 10; not a man at New Madrid; not a man at Fort Pillow; not a man at Memphis; very few were the casualties at Forts Philip and Jackson. One by one the rebel obstructions have been removed. How often have we been told that they were impregnable! How often that the gunboats would be destroyed! How often that never would the river be opened till the Confederacy was a recognized independent power! One short year and their labors—the ditch digging, the cannon casting, boat building, their braggadocio has come to nought. New Orleans is ours!—Memphis is ours! the mighty stream of the West is open to the world! So moves a mighty nation in a career unparalleled in history, rescuing from the grasp of tyrants, pirates and plunderers the garnered wealth of ages."

Disloyalty to be Suppressed in St. Louis.—The Provost Marshal of St Louis has been directed to administer the oath to all persons suspected of disloyalty, and to require those who are known to be traitorous to give bonds for the proper observance of the oath.

Orphans in New Orleans.—It is stated upon the authority of the *Delta*, that there are now not fewer than 2400 children made orphans by the war, in the several asylums in New Orleans!

LATEST NEWS.

Richmond and Charleston papers speak of another battle between the U. S. soldiers and the rebels on James' Island, as occurring June 16th. It is claimed that our forces were defeated with a loss of 400, including 30 captured. Their own loss is put at 150. They fear the result if the battle is renewed, as they expected it to be. Our gunboats may cut off their retreat and insure the fall of the city. Beauregard's church bells have arrived at Boston. An extensive insurrectionary plot among the negroes of Okibbeha county, south of Corinth and west of Columbus, Miss., has been discovered and frustrated. So says a Mississippi paper of the 14th inst.

The bill for the emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia, will require some additional legislation.

Marriages.

June 17th, by the Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D. D., DR. FRANCIS A. THOMAS to Miss MARY B. SWAZEY.

June 20th, by the Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D. D., MR. JAMES P. MATHEWS to Miss ANNA W. GLASE.

Deaths.

Of Diptheria, on Tuesday morning, June 17th, MYRA ELIZA, daughter of James and Rebecca A. Berry, aged 4 years, 9 months and 1 day.

Special Notices.

Notice.—A quarterly meeting of the Directors of the Philadelphia Education Society, will be held in the Presbyterian House, on Tuesday next, the 24th inst. at 4½ o'clock, P. M.

CHARLES BROWN,
June 1862. Cor. Secretary.

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See "The Pen is mightier than the Sword," in another column. mar20 6m

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