

American Presbyterian and Genesee Evangelist.

JOHN W. MEARS, Editor

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1863.

THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN. A WEEKLY RELIGIOUS AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Published every Thursday, at No. 1334 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

TERMS—(in advance) Per annum, \$2 00

PREMIUMS. Any clergyman procuring two new subscribers...

Religious Intelligence.

Presbyterian. Translation of the Heidelberg Catechism. The Christian Intelligence, announces that the Rev. Dr. Berg, of the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, N. J., has just completed the translation of Van Alphen's very able work on the History and Literature of the Heidelberg Catechism, and its Introduction into the Netherlands.

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Religious belief of Garibaldi.—It is difficult to ascertain the exact religious belief of Garibaldi. He has too many a noble character to acquiesce in a cold, sober Athem or Rationalism. Those who know him maintain that he is very regular in saying his morning prayers. In reply to a letter

from an evangelical Christian, who called his attention to a pamphlet entitled Dottrina Garibaldiana which was a parody of the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle Creed, and the Ten Commandments, Garibaldi expressed his entire disapprobation of the irreverent style and contents of the pamphlet.

Evangelical Dissent in Wales.—We are indebted to the N. Y. Observer for the following interesting facts on this subject. On the Census Sabbath in 1851, 965,505 persons attended public worship in Wales; and of these only 174,947 attended every Established Church, and even from this a large deduction of not less than 25 per cent. must be made for servants and dependents of Churchmen, who are compelled to attend church services. The proportion of Churchmen to Dissenters throughout the entire country may be put down as 1 to 8; but, in many of the Districts, the preponderance of Dissenters is much greater. The Dissenters had 3,000 places of worship while the Church has but 1150. These furnish accommodations for 60 per cent. of the entire population; and, as not more than 48 per cent. at any time required accommodation, the Dissenters of Wales have done what probably no nation in the history of the world has ever done—they have provided religious accommodation for every man, woman and child in the entire community. Taking the average value of the chapels at \$200, they have property amounting to a million and a half of money—the result of voluntary contributions alone, and including the support of schools and colleges, they contribute not less than a quarter of a million annually to religious objects. Not less than 350,000 attended regular Nonconforming places of worship, and about a half of the population of the country attend the chapels of the four leading denominations. Such are the religious statistics of the country.

Rationalism on the Continent.—The Methodist, in an able review of the progress of Rationalism during the past year, thus refers to its developments in France: "In France, the Rationalistic and the Orthodox parties, which until recently have been more or less connected, have begun to separate openly, in consequence of the increasing hostility of the Rationalists in expressing their opinions. The separation appears now a matter of fidelity and duty for the Orthodox. This necessary antagonism broke out lately in the last Pastoral Conference of the Department of the Gard, held at St. Hippolyte. This meeting of thirty or forty ministers, numbered but three or four evangelical pastors. The reading of the opening paper, drawn up by a young pastor and analyzing the book of a Professor Larroque against the Christian religion, was followed by a discussion, in the course of which the most extreme negative opinions were expressed. One of the pastors said that Mr. Larroque was entirely right in some of his attacks, and particularly in those upon original sin and the expiatory death of Christ; another affirmed that Mr. Larroque was destroying the Official, the traditional Christianity, but was in no way attacking his own Christianity, which was anterior to doctrines and to the Church; another would absolutely have it, that Mr. Larroque was a Christian, notwithstanding his own denial. Already, at the two or three preceding Conferences, the chief speakers had denied the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures, the divinity of Christ, etc., and at this year's Conference some Rationalistic pastors of the young school declared that there is an abyss between Orthodoxy and their opinions. The Orthodox were therefore compelled to make an emphatic protest. They forthwith resolved upon a separation, and notified the dissenting brethren that they would no more form a part of the Pastoral Conference of the Gard. They will be at once organized a new Conference. There has been for some time a general impression in France, that a division of the Church into an Orthodox and a Rationalistic denomination draws near. A separation like that which has just taken place in the Department of the Gard may readily hasten the time of the general split."

Congregational. The Periodical Press.—Two Congregational papers, the Congregational Journal, New Hampshire, and the Oberlin Evangelist, have been discontinued at the beginning of the new year. On the remaining journals of Congregationalism we find the following remarks in the Boston Congregationalist: "There now remain but six weekly religious papers of our order in the land, namely: The Independent, (at least nominally Congregational), the Congregationalist, Boston Recorder, Portland Christian Mirror, Vermont Chronicle (published at Windsor), and Hartford Religious Herald. The four which have been suspended, all within a few months are the Lewiston Maine Evangelist, Concord, (N. H.), Congregational Journal, Chicago, Congregational Herald and Oberlin Evangelist. There are four which are now issued monthly, all of recent origin, namely: The Wisconsin Patriot, at Milwaukee; the Iowa Religious News-Letter, at Dubuque; the Congregational Record at Lawrence, Kansas; and the Illinois Christian Era, President Blanchard's paper. These four are each, we think, published at fifty cents per annum. The first three are admirably answering the purpose of a local religious paper: The Era we do not receive. The San Francisco Pacific is the organ both of the Congregationalists and the Presbyterians in California. It is a good paper, and increases in value with a change in its management—without disparagement to the former editor."

Orthodox Congregationalists.—The Congregational Quarterly, January, 1863, gives statistics of the denomination in the United States, Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Jamaica, which foot up as follows: Churches, 2,884, and ministers, 2,643, (of whom 904 are pastors, 861 stated supplies, 215 not specified, and 663 not in service) church members, 201,474, of whom 23,635 are absent, (increase, 2-855) Sabbath School scholars, 255,257.

Army. Army Chaplains Defended.—A writer in the Evangelist, says: "It is perhaps true, that among those sustaining the responsible station of chaplain, some are mere 'hirelings,' but as a class I don't believe a more laborious and earnest set of men can be found anywhere. Amid the frequent complaints made against chaplains, and the many abuses heaped upon them, the great body of them have worked and prayed on, just as faithful pastors do at home."

Great Exploit of Union Forces in Tennessee.—Since the bold and magnificent advance of General Mitchell nearly a year ago, upon the railroad at Huntsville, there has been nothing comparable to it in the achievements of National or rebel forces until the recent descent of our cavalry upon the Virginia and East Tennessee Railroad. The account given in the New York Herald is as follows: "Two bodies of Union troops, belonging to General Granger's army of Kentucky left Richmond, Ky., shortly before Christmas, on an unknown expedition. It now appears that one portion of these forces took the left hand road running south from that place, and passing by Manchester, reached Mount Pleasant. Thence it took the road over the mountains to Jonesville, and passing through that place and Estillville, struck the railroad at Bristol, a station situated about eleven miles from Bristol, which is near the State line between Virginia and Tennessee. At this point the work of destruction commenced. The telegraph lines to Richmond, Va., were first cut to prevent the rebel chiefs at their capital from knowing any thing of what was going on beyond that point. They next dashed up the line as far as Bristol, effectually destroying the railroad track as they went, and as they fell back burned the bridges over the streams. Arriving at the point where the railroad crosses the Clinch river, they again crossed the Union troops burned those bridges. After crossing the river, and passing Carter depot, the Union troops pushed on to Jonesboro, thence to Greenville and Bull's Gap, now known as Rogersville Junction, altogether a distance of over seventy miles, at the same time destroying all that could impede their movements in the way of bridges, trestle work, &c., along that line. This ended the line of operations of the column on the left. "The other column left Richmond, Ky., by one of the roads running south, and struck the Cumberland land Mountains at a point near Cumberland Gap, and farther to the west of that taken by their colleagues. They next proceeded to the State line, and crossing the Clinch river followed the turnpike road to Rogersville. It was planned that this column should arrive at this point about midnight, at which hour a train of cars was generally at the station. Rogersville is a place of but small importance, and contained but few inhabitants, who were easily secured and prevented from giving any alarm. The branch of the railroad was also of mere local use, and connected with the main line at Bull's Gap, or Rogersville Junction. The troops found the train at the station as had been supposed, and soon got it underway. Having switched off at Bull's Gap, they turned along the main line in a westerly direction until they arrived at Strawberry Plains, within a few miles of Knoxville. All this was done in a few hours, and then the work of destruction commenced on the right. The track was torn up and a bridge destroyed just east of Strawberry Plains, and they went on to Rogersville, where they were met by a detachment of the late E. Sherman's army, and they were driven back to the junction. Between New Market and Morristown a long piece of trestle work over half a mile in extent, was totally destroyed, and near Russellville another bridge met the same fate as its neighbors. They then fell back, destroying as they went, until they reached the Rogersville junction, at Bull's Gap, where they met with their friends who had been operating on the other side of the road. It will be seen that the operations extended within a few miles of the whole length of the line, and destroying the travel of greatly over a hundred miles in extent. "The result of this exceedingly bold, well-timed, and successful movement was to cut off reinforcements to the rebel forces at Murfreesboro', who otherwise would have had complete railroad communication with Richmond, Va., and would perhaps have received them in sufficient numbers to Nashville, wrest Tennessee from our grasp, and carry the war to the banks of the Ohio river. The Lynchburg paper which announced the destruction of the road, spoke of it as being exacted to its present capacity. We are glad to learn that a Pennsylvania detachment shared in this highly important enterprise. The troops returned in safety to Manchester, January 6th, having lost but ten men. Gov. Seymour sent a message of decidedly disloyal favor to the New York Legislature on the 7th. But while the document will comfort the sympathizers with rebellion in the North and will probably be praised by the London Times as the most sensible and statesmanlike paper yet issued in our country, yet the positions taken toward the close, that our army in the field must be supported, and that under no conditions must the division of the Union be conceded, will nullify all he says about the sacredness of State rights, the Constitutional rights of the South, the threat to prosecute, our government agents for arrests of suspected persons, and the opposition he makes to the proclamation of martial law. Like many other mortals, the Governor's contradictions save him, He is a suspicious character yet now however, and ought to be watched. Gov. Curtin's Message, goes at once to the business of the State and keeps steadily hold of it. The receipts from ordinary sources of revenue for the year 1862 exceeded those of 1861 by \$1,038,166. This condition of the finances of the State is considered favorable to a revision of the revenue laws for the purpose of lessening taxation, and giving credit on the first of December last amounted to \$40,448,213. The sinking fund \$10,781,000.