

essence palpable or unseen. The things which men desire, pursue, and believe in, low and trivial and unworthy as they may be in themselves, are, to the persons whom they thus influence, "no vain thing, but their life."

American Presbyterian AND GENESSEE EVANGELIST.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1863.

JOHN W. MEARS, Editor. A PRESENT HEAVEN.

He who lives by faith is independent of present circumstances. He communes with objects in an entirely distinct sphere. While surrounding objects, upon which men of the world depend for happiness, continually fluctuate and disappoint them, he who maintains his faith in spiritual realities may be calm, contented, and happy.

Faith does not wait for heaven to come in the future. It is her peculiar function to bring its main elements into the present sphere of existence. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

But as heaven is not made up of inaction, of mere repose, or even of specific acts of worship and praise exclusively, but also of great deeds and of the zealous service of doubly consecrated natures and exalted powers; so, the heaven realized by faith on earth, is not one of withdrawal from earth to contemplative solitude and selfish seclusion.

heaven of the Christian on earth. The Christian who shrinks back for the sake of maintaining his peace when God and duty thus loudly call, takes the surest means of destroying it, or of placing it upon a false foundation which cannot endure.

Living by faith ensures a present heaven. But faith notices the spiritual bearings of worldly things, as well as guards us against their merely temporal enticements. We walk by faith, therefore, and maintain our heavenly home, when, in every worldly sphere to which duty calls us, we labor heartily with spiritual aims.

HAVE WE ENDORSED CONGREGATIONALISM?

We recently noticed the fact that a licentiate of one of our Presbyteries, Mr. Philander Reeb, was ordained in Louisiana as chaplain of one of the regular Presbyterian organizations, Mr. Reed was ordained by a Council composed of ministers of four different evangelical denominations.

We observe that the organ of one wing of the Congregationalists is disposed to boast of the procedure, as an illustration of the admirable working and fitness of the system which it professes to advocate.

Summary methods are indispensable in such a time of confusion; the Government uses them on compulsion merely, and will rejoice when the necessity for them disappears.

THE NEW YORK OBSERVER AND ALBERT BARNES.

We have read with no little surprise the comments of the New York Observer of January 22, and February 9, on the conditions of peace as set forth in a Thanksgiving sermon recently published by Rev. Albert Barnes, of Philadelphia.

"The Observer should suppose that this "proposition" is original with Mr. Barnes, who it says, "is well known to the whole country and the world as an extreme anti-slavery man."

The astonishing mis-use which has been made of Mr. Barnes' Thanksgiving Sermon by the fanatics of the North, is both contemptible and dishonorable to them and grossly unjust to him.

when he published his Thanksgiving sermon,—a fact which we in common with his best friends here, deeply regretted,—is he therefore to be numbered with the pestiferous reactionists against the government, in its fearful and agonizing struggle with the rebellion?

Let it be noted then, that Mr. Barnes in this very sermon, lays it down as the first condition of peace that the rebellion must be suppressed, the civil authority of the Union restored.

Mr. Barnes' sermon is open to objection, we admit, but only the willfully blind can pervert it into a demonstration against the Government or the war.

PREACHING—NO. 7.

BY REV. E. E. ADAMS. AUTHORITY IN THE PREDICATOR.

The minister of God may not "lord it over God's heritage." But, standing before men not only as the representative of the Divine mercy, but also of the divine command, as "an ambassador of Christ," he may speak with authority:

GERMAN STREET CHURCH.

It may interest some of the readers of the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN to know what success has attended the efforts of the Committee of German Street Church to raise fifteen thousand dollars to free that church from debt, and finish the edifice.

It is not for any doubt as to the propriety of the effort to save the German Church from being broken up, for in the mind of every Christian man the doubt would be removed by the commendation of nearly all our city pastors in regard to it.

Instances are not wanting in modern times of great power in the pulpit as the result of confidence in truth. Among these, the preaching of Bossuet is remarkable.

A FUNERAL IN A SNOW STORM.

The third day of February, 1863, is not so far back that people fail to remember it as a peculiarly cold, snowy, stormy day. Yet the dead must be buried, in all kinds of weather.

Let us return to the church. The funeral services have begun. The pastor requests the Congregation to sing a hymn,—a favorite of the deceased. The concluding lines are,—

"Yet a season, and you know Happy entrance will be given: All your sorrows left behind, And earth exchanged for heaven."

The singing is followed by the reading of the Scriptures, one sentence of which is chosen as a text by the pastor: "To die is gain." A brief biography is given.

Samuel Davies, A. M., visited London. His fame had gone before him and reached the royal ear. He was invited to preach in the King's chapel, and it is said to have accepted the invitation.

Robert Hall was an authoritative preacher, for the people had learned that he could sound the depths of every subject, and that he rose to the highest goal of thought and power in the pulpit over a body tortured and crushed with constant agony.

Dr. Caesar Malan, of Geneva, is perhaps the most sublime living specimen of ministerial majesty in the pulpit.

LIBERTY FOR ALL.

Manayunk, February 4th, 1863.

DOUBTLESS THE strongest aspiration of the great Anglo-Saxon race is for self-government.

The theory of the American political system is just and true; yet under the protection of that free system, there has grown up and flourished a system utterly at variance with its principles, and absolutely denying these inalienable and self-evident rights to a portion of another race.

We regard our present struggle as carrying out the principles of the Declaration of Independence. We reject that charter of liberty, unless you allow them to foist their own limitations into its text.

OUR CHURCH NEWS.

The late visit of Rev. Dr. Bouton, of Concord, Pastor and spiritual father of Rev. E. E. Adams, to this city, on his errand of mercy as agent of the Christian Commission in Washington, will be remembered with gratification by all who had the pleasure of meeting with and hearing him.

AMONG the several received at the Communion in the Mercier Street Church, N. Y., on Sabbath before last, was a deaf mute. He became a member on profession of his faith, and after an intelligent understanding and approval of the confession and articles, as the pastor stated.

THE extended, scholarly and very genial notice of Professor Robinson contained in the Independent of February 5th, is one deserving the thanks of all interested in preserving suitable memorials of our American Christian Scholars. We shall try to find room for it in a future number.

[For the American Presbyterian.] THE ANNUAL CONCERT OF PRAYER. MR. EDITOR—As the annual Concert of Prayer for Literary Institutions is at hand, it may be well to ask the attention of your readers to one of the principal objects of its appointment, which was to promote the increase of the Christian ministry.

There are among us those who question whether such a result is desirable, because they affirm we have a ministry sufficient for all our wants. This statement we firmly believe to be incorrect and injurious, and feel bound to do all we can to break its force.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

Ordained, Jan. 20th, at Clarkson, N. Y., by the Presbytery of Rochester, Rev. Corlis B. Gardner, as an evangelist. Sermon by Rev. J. E. Shaw, D.D.; ordaining prayer by Rev. J. C. Taylor, and charging by Rev. J. Pierson.

New Publications.

Messrs. R. Carter & Bros. announce that they will publish about March 1st from advance sheets received from the author: D'ABUIGNE'S NEW VOLUMES ENTITLED, THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION IN THE TIME OF CALVIN, in two duodecimo volumes.

OUR CHURCH NEWS.

THE DAY OF PRAYER FOR COLLEGES and Institution of learning will be observed on Thursday of this week, by Union meetings in the morning, at 10 1/2 o'clock, in the Clinton street Church; and in the afternoon at 4 o'clock, in Green Hill Church.

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APPOINTMENT KEPT UNDER DIFFICULTIES.—Dr. Tuttle, of Wash College, Crawfordsville, Ind., in a letter to the Evangelist, gives an instance of the indomitable energy of one of our Western pastors in fulfilling an appointment which deserves to be circulated.

REV. J. B. BITTINGER.—The Lutheran of this city thus speaks of the recent pastor of the Euclid Street Church, Cleveland, now laid aside by sickness.

The Rev. J. B. Bittinger, one of the most brilliant and scholarly men who have come forth from Pennsylvania College, and who made himself widely known as an eloquent preacher and finished writer, is now at Hanover, Pa., in feeble health.

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