

American Presbyterian and Genesee Evangelist.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1863.

JOHN W. MEARS, Editor.

EXTRA DAILY ISSUE OF THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

During the approaching Sessions of the General Assembly in this city, we propose to issue from this office a daily paper, containing PHOTODUPLICATIONS of all the proceedings, with the Acts, Reports, Sermons, and other Documents of the body, in as full and accurate a manner as possible.

The DAILY AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN will be nearly half the size of the weekly; it will be printed on smaller but legible type, and on good paper, furnishing a record valuable to every minister, elder, and church-member, for immediate use, or for preservation for the future.

The price for a single copy will be FIVE CENTS; all the numbers will be sent, post-paid, to any address for 50 cents. To be paid in advance.

As it is very desirable that some approximation to the number which will be required, be reached at an early day, it is hoped that subscriptions will be sent at once to our office.

A limited space will be allotted to advertisements, at fifty cents a line for the entire edition, or \$37.50 per column of fifteen inches; \$20 for a half column, \$12 for a quarter column.

Address, AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, 1324 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

THE RECENT REVIVALS.

To us, the news of revivals in various parts of our church which we have been privileged to chronicle within the past two months, has been peculiarly gratifying. We have perseveringly maintained the ground that our present wax-cyclism was of such a character as in no way to hinder, but rather to promote revivals, among the loyal people and churches. So much that it really noble and elevating has entered into this excitement—there is so much akin to, or even identical with, the best forms of Christian philanthropy and sincere selfless devotion to the true interests of humanity—there is such a mighty response to the highest call of duty upon the citizen in his relations to outraged law and an imperilled government, that we feel it would be monstrous to expect a living Christianity to be damaged rather than developed and invigorated by it.

This war, into which a reluctant government was dragged, after most perilous delays, we have always viewed as undertaken in the interest of Christian civilization, and as bringing forth fruits, at almost every step, of the highest promise to that civilization, and therefore as closely connected with, and forming part of the movement introducing the final triumph of Christ's kingdom on earth. Only narrow-minded men, only Christians who have not added to their faith, "virtue," to say nothing of the disaffected and disloyal, have shrunk from introducing the war into religious connections, and from constituting it a leading topic of prayer in every circle, private, social and public.

We are grateful for the abundance of the facts which may be cited to sustain our position. The truth is, the very churches and denominations which have most closely identified themselves with this grand movement of our time, are the ones which, so far as our observation goes, have enjoyed the most liberal manifestations of the Spirit. Decidedly the most prosperous, active and liberal churches of the Synod of Pennsylvania, are those whose Pastors and people have given the heartiest support to the government. Central and Western New York, the scene of the most extraordinary work of grace with which any Calvinistic Church in the North has been visited since the war began, is the very home of our own loyal and freedom-loving Zion. In our own Church, whose testimonies for our country and our cause have been so hearty, explicit, and unanimous, and in the densest part of our Church, it is, that the most marked evidences of divine favor have been enjoyed. Is there not a significance in this fact, to which more stupidity alone will shut its eyes?

In the early part of the season, the New England Congregationalists felt the first droppings of the gracious shower. The churches of the North-west were not entirely passed over at that time. Then followed the great revival, chiefly among the Baptists, at Fall River, and soon converts in that communion began to be reckoned by thousands all over the North. No denomination, we think, has quite equalled the Baptist in unqualified endorsement of the emancipation scheme. Vast numbers of Baptists in the South were freed men by that act. The Methodist protracted meetings now poured out army after army of probationers, until it became fatiguing to glance even, over the multitude of brief but cheering announcements burdening the home columns of their journals. Each paper kept the others busy counting up the fresh thousands thus reported, week by week, as pressing at least into the outer courts of the tabernacle. And it is a little remarkable that the very centres of the hostile movements, the battle-field of Antietam, the disputed territory of West Virginia, the exposed borders of Ohio, and the devastated plains of Missouri were the theatres of the most powerful and fruitful of these awakenings in the Methodist Church. This, too, is a most warm and loyal body. And now come the latter rains also upon us, second to none in the earnestness and unreserve of our adhesion to the country's cause.

Astonishing, too, beyond measure would be the exhibition in brief of the works of uncounted benediction to which the Spirit of Christ in the Church has prompted these same denominations. How to pay church debts and how to give to good causes is a lesson we seem only to be now learning. The millions which have been gladly contributed for the comfort of our soldiers, sick and well, on the march, in camp, or languishing under their lives in hospitals; for their bodies, souls, intellects, for their families left behind, can never be more than approximated. Church debts probably amounting to millions have been wiped off with ease; new enterprises have been provided for by the liberality of single individuals; pastors have been astonished by the magnitude of the gifts of their people to themselves; missionary contributions, particularly in the Methodist Church (we regret we cannot say as much of our own) have in many instances doubled, trebled or quadrupled in amount. We are not drawing upon fancy—these things, hopeful and delightful as they are, are true; and he who looks incredulously upon them,

or fails, with a full heart, to give glory to God for them, is guilty of gross unbelief and criminal blindness. Let him read, as a warning, 2 Ki. 7: 2, 17-20.

Yet far be it from us to conceal the fact that as there were many hungry widows in Israel unfed in the time of Elijah, and many lepers uncleaned in Syria in the time of Elisha, and many localities unmarked in the Saviour's time by his mighty works; so, there are Christian communities by thousands unvisited by the special influences of the Spirit at this time; there are church debts still crushing the life out of important enterprises; there are important branches of Christian effort inadequately sustained; there are Missionaries abroad and at home, waiting, with hope deferred, for their scanty allowances; there are fields of effort whitening for the harvest and perishing for want of laborers; there are chaplains in the army looking to Christians at home for more encouraging indications of sympathy in their prayers, and provision for the spiritual wants of the hundreds of thousands of our soldiers.

Christian brethren! we are privileged to live in a most momentous period, when days of true, manly effort for Christ count for years in ordinary times. Behold our work! Behold our encouragement, too! Happy is he who with unwavering faith and spirituality of aim grasps into the thick of things, and with life expanded and powers enlarged, labors as he never before did, for the Master.

THE ANTIQUITY OF THE HUMAN RACE.

A NEW DEMAND OF SCIENCE.

We think the public are speedily settling into a right estimate of such attacks on the credibility of the Sacred Books, as that of Colenso. They are as empty against the fabric of Scripture as blank cartridges against a fortification. We turn from them to consider the far more serious difficulty, now being raised by geologists, in regard to the antiquity of the human race. Up to the present time it seemed to be conceded by leading geologists, that nothing had been evolved by the action, calculated to unsettle the popular belief in the received chronology of the Hebrew Scriptures. Recently, especially since the discovery of the flint hatches and arrow heads in the valley of the Somme, about three years ago, the whole question has been ardently pursued, both in that and several other localities where fossilized human remains had been found. The result is, that scientific men are prepared now to take more positive ground than formerly and begin to demand a very great extension of the received chronology. It is claimed that the remains of man have been indubitably recognized in the two geological periods preceding that in which we are now living. Says Sir Charles Lyell: "It will be convenient to divide these into two groups—the Recent and the Post-Pliocene. In the Recent we may comprehend those deposits in which not only the shells, but all the fossil mammalia are the living species; in the Post-Pliocene, those strata in which the shells being recent, a portion and often a considerable one, of the accompanying fossil quadrupeds, belongs to extinct species."

The remains belonging to the Recent period are found chiefly in the peat-bogs and shell-mounds of Denmark, and in the Swiss lakes; those of the earliest or Post-Pliocene date, in the Valley of the Somme and in certain caves near Liege and Dusseldorf. These remains are found in such geological situations, or in connection with animal remains, that it is contended they must have lain there during the lapse of ages upon ages, compared with which the reputed age of the race is but a fragment. One hundred thousand years is demanded as necessary to meet the exigencies of the problem.

Now believers in the inspiration of the Scriptures have scarcely recovered from the shock which was experienced when geologists first began to speak of the inconceivable ages required for those revolutions on the surface of our planet, which they contended had taken place before the advent of man. Nor are the orthodox views of the inspired account of creation by any means harmonized, after many attempts, with the claims of geologists on this point; although it is generally conceded that the believer in the inspiration of Moses, may, without inconsistency, accept the geological estimate of the age of the pre-Adamic earth. Yet before we have well settled our views on this extraordinary postulate of the science, we are summoned to another concession, which seems still more nearly to touch the vitals of our faith. We are expected to admit that our race has existed some sixteen or seventeen times as long on earth as we suppose the Scriptures plainly to teach. What answer shall we, as intelligent Christians, make to this demand? Scarcely having had time to gather up our thoughts on the subject, having seen no other attempt to meet the question, we throw our first thoughts upon paper, as a journalist is often compelled to do, and shall rejoice to find anywhere a more mature and well-considered reply than our own, to the question.

We say, then—1. The facts themselves are of too recent discovery and too meagre to furnish ground for settled scientific conclusions of such a sweeping character. Further investigations may lead geologists to modify or abandon their views of these remains. Are they all really human? Were they originally deposited in these geologically ancient positions, or did some recent change bring them into their present connections? Do the animals with whom remains are associated, really belong to what we regard as the pre-Adamic period? Geologists have often and often, in the brief history of their science, been compelled to change their views, and they are by no means agreed together, now, even as to the great features of their science. They will not expect us to be in any great haste, then, to abandon our tried opinions at the first flourish of their trumpets over a pretended new discovery. One of the most eminent of their number, Professor H. D. Rogers, argued, from personal inspection of the localities in France where the stone arrows and hatchet heads were found, against the necessity of ascribing to them an age incompatible with the received chronology. His article on the subject was contained in the October number of Blackwood for 1860. We do not hear that he has receded from his position at that time taken, that the remote pre-historic antiquity of the race remained "not proven," so far as this discovery was concerned. We might insist also upon more unequivocal testimony to the extraordinary age of the remains found in caves and peat-bogs; as such shallow depths, in such meagre numbers, and in such an imperfect condition. The con-

WESTERN CORRESPONDENCE.

CINCINNATI, May 1, 1863.

THE day of fasting and prayer, in this city, was generally observed. Most of the leading business houses were closed, yet there was not that universal suspension of business and pleasure which such a day should be secured from all classes. Most of the churches were open, some for a preaching service, and others simply for prayer and conference. The general impression among ministers was, that the day would be most profitable if observed mainly as a day of prayer. The pastors, however, in some of the churches, preached timely and patriotic sermons which did good service for the country, and increased the confidence of the people in the final and complete triumph over this gigantic rebellion.

To the honor of the pulpit of Cincinnati, let it be said that there is not now a single pastor, in any denomination, but who is thoroughly loyal and outspoken against the rebellion, and in favor of sustaining the Government in the present conflict. The only pastor who was in sympathy with the South, who would neither preach about the war, nor pray for the success of our arms, nor a blessing on the civil authorities in their efforts to crush the rebellion, has been compelled to relinquish his pastorate and to seek a more congenial field of labor. The thorough loyalty of the pulpit of Cincinnati has achieved great and good results for this city, and aided materially in the recent great political and moral victory in the municipal elections, which were so auspicious to the country and so honorable to the loyalty of the city.

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To the honor of the pulpit of Cincinnati, let it be said that there is not now a single pastor, in any denomination, but who is thoroughly loyal and outspoken against the rebellion, and in favor of sustaining the Government in the present conflict. The only pastor who was in sympathy with the South, who would neither preach about the war, nor pray for the success of our arms, nor a blessing on the civil authorities in their efforts to crush the rebellion, has been compelled to relinquish his pastorate and to seek a more congenial field of labor. The thorough loyalty of the pulpit of Cincinnati has achieved great and good results for this city, and aided materially in the recent great political and moral victory in the municipal elections, which were so auspicious to the country and so honorable to the loyalty of the city.

Dr. Thompson, Pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, has had, this week, a great and sudden sorrow to fall upon his heart and home in the death of his wife.

The following notice of the bereavement, and life and character of his excellent wife, I take from the Christian Herald:

"Died suddenly, of Congestion of the heart, on Monday, at 6 o'clock P.M., Mrs. SARAH B. THOMPSON, wife of Rev. M. L. P. Thompson, D.D., pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, in this city, aged 61 years. She was born in Hadley, Mass., October 8th, 1812, and married to Dr. Thompson, in August, 1832. Her nearest surviving relatives are, Gen. Hooker, now in command of the Army of the Potomac, and two sisters. In the midst of the family circle, engaged in conversation, and without the slightest premonition, she passed away, leaving her deeply afflicted husband, her many sympathizing friends, the blessed assurance which she has gone to be with Jesus. During the whole of her life she was a devoted Christian, and a period of her residence in Cincinnati, she has been an invalid, unable most of the time to speak above a whisper. Hence, although greatly beloved by all who knew her, she was but little known in this city, and even to most of her husband's congregation. This was a great trial to her as well as to them, but she bore it with unflinching fortitude and endurance. Oppressed by feebleness, in a state which, many would have felt, relieved her from special care for others, she was not only a constant support to her husband, but a centre of gladness and love to all around her. She possessed great natural energy, and when in health, was the life and soul of the benevolent plans which fell within her sphere. Even in her infirmity she could not see her without being impressed by the influence of her elastic mind, amiable and cheerful disposition, and refined manner. Her religion was that of established principle, rather than of variable emotion. At times she was distrustful of herself, but all who intimately knew her, felt assured that her life was hid with Christ in God."

A QUAID.

Mr. Editor—It gives me great pleasure to be able to state to my friends in Philadelphia and elsewhere, that the entire debt of the Central Presbyterian church Norristown, Pa., is now cancelled. The debt was on the 15th of April 1863, \$4,478.09. I succeeded in raising, towards the removal of this claim, among my friends outside of Norristown Pa. \$2,020.00. I am constrained to make special mention of the generous contribution of \$200.00 from friends in Catasauqua and Hokendauque churches towards this object. These churches till recently were aided by the missionary society, and they have lately built a neat and commodious parsonage. On the ground of these home demands, I feared they would not be able to give a favorable response to my appeal, but instead of excusing themselves, their pastor Rev. Cor. Earle placed in my hands the above amount. In behalf of my church and congregation I tender my unfeigned thanks to all who have aided us in this good work, and to those who did not feel able to contribute to this object, I feel indebted for their kind treatment and encouraging words. The members of the church and congregation too deserve great commendation for the cheerful zeal they exhibited in raising the balance—\$2,458.09. Above all I recognize the good hand of the Lord in this successful movement, and I pray that the gratitude of pastor and people may be evinced by a fresh consecration of themselves to the promotion of God's glory, as it is unfolded in the edification of believers, and the conversion of sinners.

April 28th 1863. ROBERT ADAIR, Pastor of Central Presbyterian church, Norristown Pa.

LETTERS FROM CHAPLAINS.

DEAR BROTHER—On my return to camp a day or two ago, I found yours of the 4th inst., also a bundle of papers, which you were so good to send us. I distributed them to the officers. We have two companies of our regiment here, one at Fortress Monroe, and one at Norfolk. I do not know how many papers you can spare, but I could contribute 25 copies among officers, and 100 copies among the men very profitably. This, I suppose, would be asking too much. Please send to my address here, as many as you can.