E AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND GENESEE EVANGELIST. STAGIOUS AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER IN THE INTEREST OF THE

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OUR NEW-YEAR.

by permission of a favoring Providence, ng cherished purpose of the conducof this paper is now accomplished, and end forth our New Bear's greeting to numerous friends and readers upon an reed sheet, filled with valuable and enining matter to old and young. It a us unfeigned pleasure to make this number of the enlarged series the veof our kind wishes for the new year 1. Reader! we commond you heartily he grace of God; and pray that the on which we have entered may be ght with blessings temporal and spiritito you and yours. Man of God, preachet the word, may the year be happy relorious in the abundance of fruit you cross in home and foreign field, may 7 see the wilderness blossom, the darky lighten, and the joyful harvest of many giul sowings brought in ! Child of sufwearing the thorny crown and the the heart beneath, may you this year be happy in the consolations of the gos-; in the assured sympathy of Him who as to heal the broken in heart, in all the secuble fruits of righteousness that grow of sanctified affliction ! Troubled Christ. who walk in darkness and see no ht. who are almost bewildered by the spe-:- devices of scientific unbelief, whose vers are cold, whose labors and denials Christ are few, and whose inner life and er influence are feeble, may this be your r of revival and restoration to the ardor) joy, the energy of a first love. Parent y you this year be happy in the conse-; ion of your child to Christ! Sabbath bol teacher, may you rejoice this year in manifest advance of your pupils in iptural knowledge, in the conversion of ir souls, and in your own increased appeiation of the spiritual nature and blessprivilege of the work ! Soldiers of the Union on land and on sea

happy, thrice happy New Year to you! ave defenders of our national existence, my you this year behold the consummain of your wishes and ours; the complea of the great work to which you have voted your lives! Happy beyond all st years of our existence, may this year ove in bringing you back from the bloody lus of strife alive and victorious, with the ity consciousness of having established the writy of the government, vindicated the ercluess of its laws, and made good its Ducticent purpose to give freedom to the pressed in every foot of rebellious terriery. But if you should fall in these last stuggles, may your year be still happier Gin ever, when as victors over death and yn, you shall be crowned in the palace of Rei, and live and reign with Christ forever ini ever. ith the help of God, we shall do our to make the New Year a happy one to all. As divine aid shall be granted, will aid in the work of instructing, guidand quickening you and the children Your homes, in making you intelligent, out. and enterprising followers of Christ, ad in edifying the church and promoting te advance of Christ's kingdom among men. Ve ask your sympathy, your prayers, and bur co-operation. Encourage and stand by us wour extended effort this year to promote dur usefulness and enjoyment. Many have ready responded; many more have it in eir hearts to do so. We look forward to happy year in witnessing the constantly acreasing prosperity and popularity of the merican Presbyterian and the Banner of Covenant among the people of their retive churches.



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Preshnterian,

THURSDA JANUARY 7, 1864. PHILADELPHIA,

and fourteen new names respectively, with

promises of more. From a Presbyterian pastor in Erie Presbytery we this week received *lwenty-eight* new names, with the under the clearest law, and advancing pay, in a single enclosure. His charge is with the regularity almost of the heavenly by no means extensive and his success he bodies, he need but turn to the fascinating tells us "was the fruit of but a few hours determined labor." Other pastors have sent names in smaller numbers, and still others are at work and report partial results of a similar characters.

We refer our friends, for list of premiums to the Prospectus on the 8th page. At the suggestion of a pastor, we have prepared a prospectus, with ruled lines for of revealed truth assailed, defended, elucinames, addresses and amounts, for distribution in the pews of such churches as desire to make an effort for extending our amid the utmost efforts to divide, pollute, i witness to your labors! Messenger of circulation. We will furnish them in or evaporate its streams. Here is discernquantities on application at this office.

> A WEEK OF PRAYER AND UNION. While we write, the happy suggestion of the devout American Missionary on the other side of the globe, in regard to a week of united prayer among Christians of **d** denominations and in every clime, is, for the fourth time, in due course of observance. Already the custom has became dear to the hearts of believers and seems in a fair way to be established among us, like the feasts of Dedication and Purim among the Jews, without express requisition from the Master. It seems a proof of a higher degree of spontaneity in prayer and mutual regard between Christians. It is the expression, doubtless of love, of delight in such exercises, which not only fulfills, cheerfully, but which anticipates and exceeds, the measures of duty. We cannot but regard the practice, so long as it is well and earnestly sustained, as in dicating a higher degree of spiritual life and unity in the churches. We have done with ecumenical councils and Synods, as expres sions of the visibly unity; we are inaugura ting a prayer meeting, which may be called

ecumencial, in their stead. God will hear these prayers; he has heard them in times past. Nay; is not this Christian sympathy and this very spirit of prayer an answer? It is a token for good. God is prompting us to pray, and tempted this in his green "Histor of the strengther as to cause the deconders or wavids. It is very vague, and the attempt by that, most signally proves that he both Christian Religion and Church," what Histor of Kevelation and Taitli, to of the strengt to thrust the divine ideas into has heard and is preparing still further to partial success. Generally that meet is worth new combinations, hardly thought the human actor are, in spite of poetry, answer these prayers. While we speak to- abandoned, and the History of Dorne, or the good men gone. And this very and incomprehensible, though gorgeous, gether, we hear of his manifestations among in the later division of labor among tisthe people. The meetings are enlivened tian writers, falls into a distinct l with proofs that we are not seeking in vain. In the meeting of Monday morning, at Buttonwood St. Church, the encouraging features of the Foreign Missionary work were presented by Mr. McLeod, from which it same line, farnish some of the rich appears that God, in answer to prayer, is ing that an intelligent man ca sending forth laborers into the field, raising They are also among the strongest them more abundantly than ever from the native converts, while Dr. Brainerd showed that the success of the missionary work, judged by the figures presented, was at least as great on the average as the work at home. On Tuesday afternoon, at the meeting in Trinity M. E. Church, Mr. Geo. H Stuart spoke of the work of God as he had witnessed it in the army. It was marvellous and cheering indeed. At Camp Convalescent, the inquirers and the serious among the soldiers were counted by thousands. The prayers of pious relatives and of the church at home for the soldiers, are receiving answers. Within a space of fifteen miles square in Virginia, thirty-three log churches are in course of erection for the soldiers without costing a cent. The Christian Commission is furnishing canvas roofs, made from old sails, for the log walls. So white is the field for the harvest, so abundant will now be the accommodations for religious services, that thirty qualified laborers are now asked for this work in the army The reader will find in the second page of our paper an account of the progress of God's work in Lawrence, Mass., where the most signal displays of his mercy have been enjoyed, and where the laity are zealously co-operating with the ministry in extending the work. And we are per- the preceding centu mitted to copy part of a private letter to a relative in this city, from the pastor of the self a powerful att Third Church, New Albany, Ind., REV. C. HUTCHISON, dated Dec. 23d, which describes a great and cheering manifestation of divine grace in the conversion of sinners in that community. [The letter which we designed for insertion in this number will appear next week. 7 These are the very items of intelligence that we wish, at such a period, to hear. They are providentially communicated. doubtless, to encourage our faith, and to bring us unitedly to lay a firm hold upon * Shedd. the promises of a covenant keeping God. 8vo., pp. 408, 5 bner. Philade May they but presage the grand, universal. lish & Co. Pr

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE. tlem. If one would contemplate the most ma- to keep jestic marvel of human thought, moving ription opastoral life make so difficult. and deeply instructive study of Christian doctrine, as systematized by the latest and hilks to Ark a passage for his notice, best writers on the subject. Here he will see the most powerful minds grappling with the most profound truths and mysteries of being and destiny. Here are high debates, conflicts of the ages, wars of the giants. Here is the precious inheritance dated, developed and kept moving in its pure, though winding course, unsullied ed the finger of God's providence and the breath of His Spirit, as clearly as in any part of His dealings with man. Here, as plainly as in the Assyrian invasion of the Holy Land, may we see the error and the wrath of man made to praise God. Here is the thousand years which are as one day; the slow-moving process by which the church, learning patience, works out the full and perfect statement of her faith her creed. Here is a noble and brilliant array of great characters to be seen; historic personages in whose single life were embodied and concentrated the spirit of the age and the church ; God-fearing men, devoting their great gifts and energies to ity built up, like a coral isle, in that man's the service of the truth, communing with angels, warring with devils moulding the characters and destinies of generation to come.

It is a great undertaking to idestigat these cyclic movements of pristia thought. So wide is the subject o mul tiform, so susceptible of being i arde from divers points of view, that the lect of a single inquirer can rarely i to the whole task. What is called hur history, in its fullest sense, is an to carry forward by the side of the terr history of the church, in its conflic w the world, this simultaneous inwarmo ment of the Christian mind. Nealer ch.

e charm of its noble philosophy,) the studies which the inter-Acongretion could not more gracefully initiate air interest in the studies of ese adminute volumes. As they would take the perty of quoting one which the raising of Lazarus from the dead; all regard as propriate. The author in a pious fraud; the weeping of the Lord. heluding hightroduction on methodolo-

Savs : This plan for a water fume is also an for a lifelong course of private stuand investigation. The entire history is general aspects may be investigated and wider deeper and deeper, or a fe section may be made the subject of y for years. The history of an indial doctrine may be selected, and the ent find matter enough in it to occupy a life-time. What an interest would hrown around the clerical life of one, , in the providence of God, is separated educated men and large libraries, by cting about him the principal works in the doctrine of the atonement, c. g., in the patristic, scholastic, reformed and ent periods, and making them his study few hours every week. What a vavet substantially identical soteriology d pass slowly, but impressively before continually expanding and strengthenmind, carrying him back continually n examination of the scripture matter, of which this matic literature has expanded, what a determined strength broad comprehensiveness of theologicharacter would be gradually and so-

BENAN'S LIFE OF OHBIST.

It must strike the least careful observer The theological discussions of the age it the ground upon which controversies re waged a hundred or even twenty ars ago, has strangely shifted. Exceluit, unalterable in their influence, as are he arguments of Paley, Butler and the great men who were their contemporaries and followers; still we must confess that to day, the skepticism which would overand wall that christian hope would reverdatly cling to, has abandoned the old and

nnnn comes in a difference between the idea of Strauss and that of Renan. Strauss calls the miracles myths, brain figments of men who lived after Christ. Renan believes them to be a part of Jesus' plan of decepteir pasts than by presenting to him tion! Our blessed Lord and Master is turned into a presdigitateur, and even that "beautiful episode," it has been called, of

> the rolling away of the stone, the dead body, a moment ago, now filled with life; all stage effect. There is nothing in the whole book that will so jar the soul of the believer as this fearful explaining away of the story which, next to Christ's dying on the cross, keeps us near Him. Of course there is an assumption from the very first that Christ is human. Every line of M. Renan's book is written of a man; how glad we should be that it is not our Christ

who is described. And yet, while we follow him through the story, and notice the devotion, the reverence the author appears to have for Jesus, as a man, we are pained and again gladdened-pained

at the sad faithlessness of him who writes, and gladdened in the warm light which he throws about the pilgrimage of Christ. It seems to us that one, whom Christ's blood has marked, can in reading much of this book find food for his faith ; for no stronger expression could we find anywhere of some of the reasons for our Lord's divinity, than we find in it. But it is perilous reading; there is no small danger of losing sight of what makes the Christ of the true believer, his Divine nature. Christ is represented as the grandest human being who ever walked the earth; as if that were a compensation for our lost Lord. He is supposed to be an ignorant Jew; "the young carpenter of Galilee;" acted upon by the circumstances of his nation during his life; he begets within himself a grand idea of God as "the Father;" his views of his own mission are modified every day, until it reaches the consummation, which is a proclamation of the near approach of the "Kingdom of addiensible works to occupy new ones of Heaven," and the final revolution of the

of the continual changing of the explanations-nothing more than a failure. Jesus is supposed to know nothing of

TERMS. By mail \$2.00 per annum in advance. " " 2.50 " " after 3 months. By carrier 50 cents additional for delivery. CLUBS. Ten or more papers sent by mail to one or locality, or in the city to one address, By mail \$1.50 per annum. By carriers 2.00 " " To save trouble, club subscriptions must commence at the same date, be paid strictly in advance, in a single remittance, for which one receipt will be returned. Ministers and ministers' widows supplied at club rates. Home missionaries at \$1.00 per Postage. Five cents quarterly in advance, to be paid by subscribers at the office of delivery.

receives from Renan. Some of the answers have suggestive titles if nothing clse—"A false life of Jesus; or, M. Ernest Renan, historian, philosopher and poet;" "Remarks on a Romance called the 'Life of Jesus,'" "The gospel according to Renan." In the title of another work an inquiry is made about the Devil, but when read it is resolved into an inquiry about M. Renan. Let us hope that whatever evil has been done will be more than neutralized by the discussion which must follow the book wherever it goes.

M. Renan teaches very plainly human selfishness. For 5000 years and more, men believed that "we" were the centre of the universe, and that all the stars in the sky moved for our benefit. It was quite a stunning anouncement to learn that we were mistaken.

Shall we never learn, in looking upon the Lamb slain since the foundations of the world, to regard Him as the One far above us in His Divinity; that Christ was not fashioned for us, but we for Him.

J. I. F. .

MORE SURPRISES.

On Wednesday evening, 23d ult., in the First@Presbyterian Church, Kensington. ust as the Pastor, Rev. W. T. Eva, was about to close the religious service, the sexton stepped forward to the desk, and put into his hand a note, with the request that he should then examine its contents. He did so, when lo! to his surprise he found it to contain the sum of \$275 in greenbacks, accompanied with a fittingly worded request, that he would accept the enclosed as a small Christmas gift-a slight testimonial of the strength and regard of his congregation ; which request of course the Pastor complied with, acknowledging the testimonial in is few words of gratitude and love. On the next evening a committee of the ladies of the congregation waited on the Pastor's wife, and in behalf of those whom they represented, made her the recipient also of a beautiful and valuable gift.



"My people did a handsome thing on Christmas day. With a very handsome and warm note they sent me \$250, 'a free-will offering as a token of their appreciation of my services, and feir kindly feelings towards me.""

he prospectus, terms, premiums, &c., with be found in another part of the paper.

ENCOURAGING RESPONSES.

Almost immediately upon the announce thent of our purpose to enlarge our paper, began to receive the most hearty and substantial tokens of appreciation from our friends. And responses have continued to me in from every quarter of our field, with renewals of old subscriptions and large acessions of new names. Almost every nail brings us the name of a Home Misionary with thanks for the manner in which our terms are accommodated to his iroumstances and with promises of assistin extending the circulation of the paper. Some of our old subscribers have inded to the call made upon them to add fone each" to the list. Others have ritten or called at the office at the recomendation of friends, and subscribed for mselves. But the pastors of the urches are stirring themselves most effintly. From two of the Reformed Presterian churches we have received twelve saving results of this season of prayer. The result has been to add to our gical literature some of its most it ing and valuable features. The of Kliefoth, of Hagenbach, and othe theeadave. nces of our faith. A powerful staten S 8.S good as a powerful argument the full, clear and philosophic staten which such investigations enable us ve of antage it. They put Christianity on ground, and allow it to testif with the unanswerable argun found and homogenous syste

rty wel We accord, therefore, a mo sh literacome to the first attempt in ture to give a philosophical the history of Christian doct. nker and the pen of that accomplish Prof. W. writer on theological sub ry. New G. T. Shedd, of Union and inde-York. It is ably, thoro to pendently done, and is ntry. theological literature of ith an elashall not detain our rea They need borate criticism of the merit often scarcely be told that it lacking in works of hig genial schotruly evenlarship at this time-t irprise gelical spirit. Nor wi to hear our author, fu ersant German theis with the whole com logy and philosophy more indebted to Gen the great lights of th wearisome: it-

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We

gant, pure, graceful In short, we wkwardly rinhave here no imp as, the digistion slated mass of fore of which is damag character, but a t nking, with Cavi- being;" blame not "the clouds" nor "the in style and mode rine; the perusal fifth evangel," nor St. Matthew and St. nistic soundness ofitable exercise to Mark-but M. Renan's eyes. The book of which would We trust it will in- rejects entirely what is miraculous-not the head and the mode of viewing terest our clergy trine, and will win and apprehendi

of Christian Doctrine, D. In two volumes. V York: Charles Scriby Wm. G. T. S sale by Smith, Eng-

ands of skeptical controversy must to him who holds to the old ways a Greek ; the language he speaks is Aramaic. ng-nay, one of the strongest proofs of A prophet named Hillel, who lived fifty perpetuity of our holy religion .-- years before Jesus, is represented as his pastianity must progress, but there is a master in an indirect way; and the aphorand difference between progress and isms of Hillel taught our Lord his mssion. in ge; change is death, this nature tells The Psalms, the Prophets, and especially and progress is life. the book of Daniel, seem to have been his

ready celebrated "Life of Jesus," before boyhood's home, is supposed strongly to publication, was Professor of Hebrew influence him through life; and, what M. the "College de France." Not much Renan seems especially to dwell upon, is Christian doctrine, carries con with vas known of him outside of France, until the difference between the actuating motive ithin the last year or two; for although of the religion founded by Christ and the itself, | has published several works, they seem | religions of other men. His was a religion f a pro- of to have had the effect of this later founded on love of God to man; theirsbok; which however is but a developereligions founded on God's mastership. hent of opinions advanced in his earlier The Gospels receive the most unfortunate ritings. The book has unquestionably treatment; miracles are unceremoniously ntation of chieved no mean measure of distinction. scissored out-and a nice theory written It is from I. Freres, the original French publisher, on clean paper is pasted carefully in the as sold nine editions of it; and doubtless place. St. John's gospel and St. Luke's here is not a priest in France who has not te this either anathematized it heartily, or Matthew's and St. Mark's are favorites. kse not at all; if he thought well of it. The author, a Breton by birth, is one of the most learned men in France, possessing a means that he did not say enough in supstrong speculative spirit, and a peculiarly fascinating eloquence and grace in writing. Lazarus is probably the strangest in the The book was written in Palestine in the sommer of 1861, about the close of an book. Lazarus pretends to be dead ; his expedition sent out by the French governmeantime and he raising him from the ment for the exploration of Phoenicia. M. Renan says: "All that history which, and when the authorities have been afar off seems to float amidst the clouds of thoroughly aroused, brings on a hostile re himsel no a shadowy world, acquired a body and hinkers, that to solid reality astonishing to me. I had belish Church in fore my eyes a fifth evangel, torn, but pos-

meeting between his disciples and the Jews and soon is crucified. And yet M. Renan holds, without doubting, the doc-His style isele- sible to be read, so that henceforward, trines in the sermon on the Mount; he through the medium of the accounts of seems, however, in his support of these Matthew and Mark, I have seen in place and other sayings of Christ, to make conof an abstract being-such as one would cessions to his divinity, that it is impossible say never existed-a grand human figure. to consider with him, even while he him our naturalises of life-full and moving." Oh ! weak, poor shly native book, eyes that call our Saviour "an abstract self is talking, that Christ is a man. The book has called forth almost number-

less answers in France and a few strong advocates and palliators, which last M. Renan would just as leave had not written at all. Men with the firmest belief in hecause of any philosophy of the schools of christianity like De Presense, and Deists skepticism, but because of "experience." like Larroque-have replied to it; and M. Kenan thinks that "if ever the worship strangely too, both in reprobation. The of Jesus becomes feeble among men, it will Deist, much as he likes a Christ shorn of be precisely on account of the acts which His divinity, has an instinctive dread of originally made men believe in him." Here even what hollow laudation the Saviour

THE PASTOR OF OLIVET CHURCH, Rev. W. W. Taylor, received from his congre-A. Ernest Renan, the author of the special study; the scenery of Galilee, his gation, as a Christmas present, \$150. It was given by willing hearts and ready hands.

> ANOTHER PASTOR SURPRISED, - The Christmas Festival of the Clinton-street Church Sabbath-schools was one of the happiest of all the horad the timents: The lecture-room was the design deno-rated with evergreens, and the eyes of the little ones were delighted with the abundant and beautiful fruit of the Christmas Tree. The feast of good things was sizefaced by singing and addresses, and the gospel are especially badly treated. St. presentation of elegant and valuable books to the superintendent, Mr. George though St. Mark is accused of not being as Boyd. The New Year's prayer meeting original as he might be, which probably at this church was largely attended, notwithstanding the rain. As the pastor. port of M. Renan's theory. The story of Rev. Daniel March, entered the lectureroom he received an envelope containing \$400, "presented as a New Year's token sisters bury him, sending for Christ in the of regard from the members of his congregation." This, added to similar tokens of dead-loses his equaimity not long after, kindly and generous appreciation received by Mr. March from his people within the year, amounts to about \$1,000.

> > A Minister Surprised by Santa Claus in Person .--- On Christmas eve, while the ladies of the Church of South Orange, No. J., were holding a Festival at the Ofange Mountain House, Santa Claus himself. dressed all in furs, with the veritable pack upon his back, appeared in the midst of the gay scene, and, after delighting young and old with his antics and the perfection of his costume, placed himself in front of the paster of the church, Rev. J. Allen Maxwell, and in a neat little speech presented him with a packet containing the handsome sum of \$200, the gift of a few friends of his congregation. The novel mode of presentation, and the prise to which it gave occasion. Wa this one of the most pleasant have heard of this season.