

## HOME MISSIONS.

Our excellent Secretary and Treasurer of Home Missions, in making their monthly reports of contributions, for some reason, have neglected lately to give us the footings up of the columns. Now, when the columns were short, anybody could with little trouble add them up for himself (if he cared to know the totals of short columns), but when the list stretches out with its units, tens, hundreds and thousands as the one for February does, an interest arises, which we think should be anticipated in the committee rooms to know the totals. A hurried glance at the figures for February published in our columns last week, led to the gratifying conclusion that our churches had contributed over ten thousand dollars to Home Missions during that period. This we think is the largest acknowledgment ever made for a single month.\* Last April \$9600, were contributed.

[The acknowledgment above mentioned appears to be for January's contributions; we publish that for February this week.]

The churches of this vicinity are not fully or flatteringly represented in these lists. Madison Square and Mercer St. Churches, New York, contributed nearly one third of the February total. Philadelphia is indeed engaged in filling up the fifty thousand dollar Publication Fund, the largest end of which, as in previous efforts, is again left to her liberal men. Yet our churches have no reason to plead exhaustion on that ground, and they doubtless need only to be reminded of a duty which they esteem as too high and too precious to neglect—that of sustaining our devoted co-laborers in destitute parts of the field, and of enlarging the bounds of our missionary work, in response to the great wants and calls of our times.

We do not know what our committee is doing in view of the openings among the abandoned churches of the South and the whole expanding field in that section. Our Knoxville correspondent informed us of a new school church in that city whose congregation was loyal but the Government had seized the building on account of the persistent disloyalty of the minister, (who had been sent through the lines, Southward,) and occupied it for military purposes. If a suitable man could be sent by our committee to Knoxville, the Government would doubtless afford him every facility in his work, and the result might be the restoration of that entire and most interesting section of country to our body. Should funds be needed, a special appeal on the part of the committee would without doubt receive a prompt and liberal response. Our branch of the church has her share to do in the religious restoration of the South, in supplying the neglected of both races with a pure gospel, and in planting along with the seeds of the new social state the principles of the Bible. We look earnestly to our committee for wise and practical suggestions on this momentous subject, the more so, as our denomination has already been anticipated by the movements of others even of the Presbyterian body; and we may assure them of what perhaps they already are aware, the zeal and readiness of the people to second them in such movement.

Since writing the above the following has been received:

ORDER FROM THE WAR DEPARTMENT.  
WAR DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT GENERAL'S  
OFFICE, WASHINGTON, March 10, 1864.  
To the Generals commanding the Military Divisions of the Mississippi, the Departments of the Gulf, of the South, and of Virginia and North Carolina, and all Generals and officers commanding armies, detachments and posts, and all officers in the service of the United States, in the above mentioned Departments.

The Board of Domestic Missions of the Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Committee of Home Missions enjoy the entire confidence of this Department, and no doubt is entertained that all ministers who may be appointed by them will be entirely loyal.

You are expected to permit such ministers of the Gospel, bearing commissions of the "Board of Domestic Missions," or the "Presbyterian Committee of Home Missions" of the Presbyterian Church, as may convince you that their

commissions are genuine, to exercise the functions of their office within your command, and to give them all the aid, countenance and support, which may be practicable, and in your judgment proper, in the execution of their important mission.

By order of the Secretary of War.  
E. D. TOWNSEND,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

The above order, obtained by joint application from our Committee and the Home Mission Board of the other branch, guarantees a ready entrance within our army lines in the South, to all our Missionaries.

The Home Missionary work proper, which will need to be done in the South when the war is over, and which is begun already, perhaps no man can estimate. Of 150 churches which the Baptists had in Missouri, when the war began, not a dozen are left supplied with pastors. Something like this is true of every other denomination in the State, and probably all through the South. The preachers in every church except our own—to a large extent, and many leading communicants were disloyal. Having identified themselves with the South, they have gone South, before our victorious armies. Their churches are desolated or destroyed. But as fast as peace is established we need to send Missionaries, that the Gospel may be preached to those who remain. This field alone might employ all the Home Missionary energy of our church for years to come.

But in addition we have a cry for help from new fields at the West, Territories just bursting into States. At the last meeting of our Home Mission Committee, in this city, they appointed three missionaries to Colorado and one to Idaho.

We learn from New York, that since that meeting, our Presbytery formed in Nevada Territory last year, has directed a letter to the Committee, begging for at least six more missionaries to be sent on to them, at once. These Territories are filling up with wonderful rapidity; and now, while foundations are being laid, it is time to let the molding influence of the Gospel be felt. Though many churches have contributed generously, we do not wonder that the Committee are distressed for more funds. Most of the churches in this city, we believe, are accustomed to take up Home Missionary collections in March or April. We commend these considerations to their careful attention. We hope they will enlarge their contributions according to the enlarged demand. If our country is to be saved, permanently and for Christ, the messengers of the everlasting Gospel of peace, must follow hard upon the footsteps of the veterans of war.

## FAILURE OF THE TEMPERANCE REFORM FROM A FINANCIAL POINT OF VIEW.

It is not at all a settled point, by what means the Temperance cause has been brought to its present very deplorable condition. Some are inclined to regard the prevailing coldness as a natural reaction from the excess of the Prohibitory Law Agitation. That, they regard as a piece of radicalism, which, when defeated, might well be followed with prostration. Others ascribe it to the improprieties of the Washingtonian movement; others to the secret organizations which sprung up in such multitudes; while many doubtless, have seen in the reflux tide of intemperance, only the oscillatory movement which characterizes all human progress. Reactions must be expected and calculated for, by all friends of reform and of social advancement.

It is important, however, to come to some conclusion on this subject, if the Temperance movement is to be started once more. It would aid us in determining the feasibility of our object, or, if that is conceded, in avoiding the blunders by which we have been overwhelmed, heretofore. Especially, we ask, can it be made clear that we are to blame for the present prostrate condition of the cause? Dr. Charles Jewett, the veteran temperance leader, thinks we are. He puts upon the title page of his late pamphlet: "The Temperance Cause: Past, present and future," the following lines:

"The fault dear Brutus is not in our stars,  
But in ourselves, that we are underlings."

We are glad to hear from Dr. Jewett; and are disposed to give good heed to the suggestion of so ripe a man and so steady a friend to a good cause. Dr. J's

pamphlet is the first well-considered and earnest word, and gives the first piece of definite advice, to those who are seeking at this time to reanimate the temperance spirit. His account of the failure of the cause is simple enough. He says:

"A variety of causes contributed to the production of this lamentable result; but the principal one and that without which the result could not have been produced, was THE WANT OF A RELIABLE FINANCIAL BASIS TO THE ENTERPRISE."

Dr. J. follows up this statement with an abundant array of facts which do not need to be repeated here. Doubtless our readers are sufficiently well acquainted with the phenomenon. We all know it to be a fact, that temperance organizations were not regarded as requiring money for their support, and gratuitous efforts were, for the most part, relied on for carrying forward the work of reform.

Yet it seems too patent, too superficial a reason to give for such a marvellous retrogression as we are considering. We ask the writer to substantiate his positions. Turning to his pamphlet of fifty-five pages, we find it mainly occupied with the proof we are asking. Dr. J. reiterates his position as of primary importance and wishes above all things to leave us with the conviction that the temperance movement has been starved to death. He says (pp. 12 & 13.)

Put any other organization known to us on such fare, and how long would it live? Societies thus organized could not but die; yet they were successively replaced by others, for the dreadful necessities of the case as constantly presented to the awakened intellect and conscience of the country, and the good effected by them during their brief existence, seemed imperiously to demand the substitution of others of kindred character. New ones, therefore, came into being, to live a while on reluctant charity, to get hopelessly in debt if they attempted any vigorous or protracted efforts, and soon to follow their amiable but sickly predecessors to early but honored graves.

The system with which temperance reformers war, had on the contrary, for its support, power, wealth, and the suffrages of the great majority of the people. Such a system, when thrown on its defense, could feeble advocates, suborn venal presses, and work both to any extent its interest and safety might require. Men engaged in a traffic which, though destructive to others, was highly lucrative to themselves, could afford to spend money freely, where money could contribute to the perpetuity of their business.

If shrewd, practical business men had been consulted about the arrangement of a campaign, or a succession of them, for the overthrow of such a system as the one with which, as temperance reformers, we are warring, think you, reader, they would have counseled the commencement of hostilities with an empty treasury, and no reliable plan for obtaining needed funds?

But the question arises, Was there not a vast amount of good accomplished by these voluntary efforts? Was, there really room for improving upon the great and blessed results thus attained, and can it be made to appear that financial support is the main thing necessary to give these springs of reformation a steady flow? Dr. Jewett answers with good apparent reason, that that early enthusiasm was based upon facts easily gathered from the jail, the poor-house, and the tax lists; that the time came when these statistics had lost their startling novelty. "A want," he says, "began to be generally felt, of more elaborate discourses, in which facts everywhere seen, should be traced to their causes in the violation of God's laws as revealed in his Word—his Providence and by the study of the natural sciences." This need could only be supplied by competent laborers adequately paid for their services.

Had there been at this junction in addition to the faithful and persistent labor of friends in the local societies, in social meetings, personal visitation, etc., an ample corps of educated and able men who made public instruction on this subject a specialty—whose studies of the sacred records, of history, ancient and modern, of the natural sciences, of travels, biographies, and literature generally, and whose daily observation and reflection were all made to contribute to their more perfect qualification for this important service; and had our societies, local, state, and national, been provided with funds, properly to reward such labor; and had the press been then employed on a grand and liberal scale (as it could and would have been but for the starvation system) flooding the country with interesting records of public meetings and other passing events—with able and lucid expositions of important truths and principles—with tales and

songs and the variety of interesting matter at hand—not forgetting, of course, to chronicle in good full faced type the triumphs of the cause, here and there, as the infernal system with which we war went down in this and that locality under the steady and increasing pressure brought to bear upon it; oh! where would we now have been, in connection with this enterprise, if such a course had been pursued?

The writer then quotes the example of the Massachusetts Temperance Union, which in 1840, entered upon the systematic efforts, using the press in all varieties of ways, and employing paid agents of character and ability to traverse the State. It disbursed five thousand dollars annually in this effort. "The public sentiment, which now holds Massachusetts as firm as the oak and granite rocks to the prohibiting law, of the liquor traffic was formed in good measure during the prevalence of this system." He claims it as a fact, and surely if so it is a most encouraging one, that everywhere, when and where sensible means have been persistently employed, progress has always been made in the right direction.

An important confirmation to this view is furnished by the experience of British Temperance Societies. The steadiness of these organizations in comparison with our own is marked. These societies have a financial basis. A single organization: "The United Kingdom Alliance," shows a list of annual subscriptions from ten individuals, of nearly six thousand dollars, and a total from all sources of about twenty thousand dollars. The National Temperance League and the Scottish Temperance League, together, spend not less than sixty thousand dollars. Probably not less than one hundred thousand dollars is expended in furthering the interest of the cause by parent societies alone. Agents and public lecturers of experience, derived, in some cases, from a twenty years' service, are still in the field. A number of presses are kept constantly employed by these organizations, literally flooding the field with publications, many of which are of high character. "Now, reader," exclaims Dr. J.; "contrast with all this, the meager, stunted, inadequate, lilliputian, sickly, consumptive and wretched style in which the enterprise has been conducted in this country, and if you are not heartily sick of it, you are a man of very moderate ambition." The total of receipts for the cause in Massachusetts, for the year 1858, was a little over \$2000, and it is quite probable that it is as good a record as that of any other State (better than most of them) for that year.

We are inclined to accept the arguments of Dr. Jewett as of considerable importance at this time. Assuredly, whatever amounts were actually expended in past efforts, we have never exhibited the degree of system and the liberality here recommended, in promoting the Temperance Reform. The friends of temperance generally, while admitting the need of steady, regular and general contributions in other charitable enterprises, and the importance of bringing to bear upon the public mind the best talent that could be engaged and of employing the issues of the press in liberal measure for the promotion of other good objects, have undoubtedly treated the Temperance Reform too much as if it could and ought to go of itself. Meanwhile, a vigorous, well-organized, and well-endowed opposition meets them at every step of their way; the foes of temperance have the strongest possible reasons of a worldly nature, for a liberal financial policy. Their appeal to their friends is that of the Ephesian Demetrius to his fellow-workmen: "Sirs, ye know that by this craft, we have our wealth." We must use similar weapons, or at least show a fair degree of liberality in counteracting their well-sustained efforts. Let every temperance man, now considering the question of reanimating the cause, procure and study this pamphlet. The difficulty, in the author's view, is plain and the remedy simple and in reach. It is surely matter for encouragement to the friends of the cause, that one so well qualified to judge as Dr. Jewett, should have reached a conclusion pointing solely to the improvement of our financial policy as the path of success. At this time of abundance of money, we have no excuse for not trying the experiment. The pamphlet can be had, post-paid, by addressing John R. Walsh, P. O. box 4499, Chicago, or the author, box 501. Price 25 cts.,

## LETTER FROM REV. DR. COX.

New York, March 17, 1864.

Rev. J. W. MEARS, EDITOR:—My Dear Brother. To resemble Paul, I had almost said, in anything, may well seem desirable to a minister of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust: 1 Tim. 1: 11, in proportion to his correct estimate of that almost incomparable man of God. The resemblance, to which I at present refer, is not peculiarly tempting to the vanity of self-elation; but just the contrary, I am glad to say: as it reminds me of my approaching departure from this world; being such a one as Paul the apostle was about sixty-six years of age, when the crown of glorious martyrdom announced him to the universe, as one of the tallest and the noblest of the glorified apostles of God our Savior. \* May we never idolize any creature—but were any one to be selected, in the inception of such abomination \* \* \* I will not finish the folly of the thought!

Some desire to conceal their age; and some sages tell us, that such are generally older, masculine as well as feminine, older rather than younger; compared with the true date of their nativity. With me, it is almost a part of my religion, to know, and mind, and measure my accumulating years; especially since last August, when I seemed solemnly to reach the goal or terminus of my pilgrimage; according to Moses. Psalm 90: 10, having then attained seventy years.

On the topic of self, indeed, all men can be fluent, none agreeable; very few useful. But Paul often speaks of himself, in such a way, that we will question, if any man ever honestly accused him of egotism, vanity, or bad taste; to say nothing of his inspiration!

Well, I come to the point; saying that, generally, I feel not the less, but solemnly the more, for all the interests of my country, imperiled and excellent, that I leave behind me, in the church and in State, when I depart.

For Philadelphia—kindly I feel; with memories that go back, personally, to the first year of this century; when your great city could not, in its census, show 100,000 inhabitants. I feel for the place of the nativity of my honored and dear mother; the place of her marriage; and of the dust of my honored father, who died there, January 4, 1801. Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., formerly, when I first knew him, of New York; afterward of Princeton, N. J., and natively, as was my father, of Dover, Delaware; sent to me just before he went home, as I think, to be with Christ, this memorable and endeared message—"Give my love to dear Dr. Cox; and say to him that I think I have a hereditary right and claim to love him; for I loved his father; was born near his birth-place; we were long at school together; also I was intimate with him at the same post-house—so-called, where, in those days, the boys of the neighborhood all went, to be inoculated for the small-pox; and nursed with care, till perfectly recovered and fit for exterior society." All this indeed, was less expressed, than implied, in the message; yet fully spoken by him to my self years before—with other and similar things, genial and lovely; for which truly I love him yet, while sensibly less regarding some of the stiff, inhuman dignitaries of our church, who were too learned, and too eminent, to show any sympathy with any body or anything, concrete and real; except their own inconceivable self-importance!

Hence I adopt and write it, that I ever feel "a hereditary right" to love Philadelphia! All my instincts and memories attest it, when I think of it; especially when I see it, with crowded memories, as the place of my boyhood—ubi puer lusi, as says Tully; but more, when there I preach the Gospel; or—when I read your newspaper!

All this, so stated in epitome, currente calamo, may introduce my purpose, to enact your ancient; I say not patriarchal correspondent, though, as I just think of it, this is St. Patrick's day; and if it were instead, the first day of April, not more should I wish practically to feel its inspiration!

Having some things, each in its turn, to say in your paper, I propose, here in Winter and at my residence, in western New York,—Derry—in the Summer, as the Lord may give me life and ability, to send some communications to the

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Presbyterian; not without reference especially to the implications and just associations of its name—Presbyterian, and to the interests and the prospects and the future of our own beloved church, showing mine opinion as to what Israel ought to do; especially at this prosperous crisis of our history. My next—not long after this. The Lord bless you and your "enterprise." Farewell.  
SAMUEL HANSON COX.

ENCOURAGING WORDS.  
A pastor in New Jersey, not unknown to the literary world, writes: The American Presbyterian is an admirably improved sheet, and now stands head and shoulders with any paper.—Another in Missouri sends ten new names and writes: The Presbyterian is the best family paper I have known.—Another in Michigan says: You have secured a valuable helper in the "Rochester correspondent." Western New Yorkers, or such as have lived in that region must take an interest in his letters.

## News of our Churches.

REVIVAL IN JASPER, N. Y.—The Evangelist says: A precious revival is now prevailing in the Presbyterian Church. During the last Fall and early part of Winter, the prayer-meetings were not very well attended. Surprise parties were somewhat common. At length two members of the church gave notice of a surprise prayer-meeting. They expected that many persons would be present, and that they would obtain that number. More than thirty came and the Holy Spirit was poured out.

Forty-three have since testified their desires for the Holy Spirit. Christians. Of this number, several profess to have surrendered themselves to God.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBUS, WIS.—This body met at Sun Prairie, Jan. 19. The snow and severe weather interfered with the attendance; yet the meeting is described in the Reporter as one of considerable interest. Rev. H. H. Kellogg and Elder H. G. Savage, were appointed delegates to the General Assembly. A precious revival of religion was reported as in progress at Baraboo. A union meeting was commenced by the four denominations of Christians in that place on the week of prayer, which has been continued daily up to the present time. These meetings have been largely attended, and a considerable number of persons of all ages, have professed to receive Christ as their Savior, while Christians have been much revived and many of them have made manifest progress in Divine life. The churches of Lodi, Arlington and Lowville are vacant.

WESTERN CHURCHES.—From the Presbyterian Reporter, we learn that the church of New Duquoin, has called Rev. J. Jerome Ward, of Yellow Springs, to the pastorate. He is expected to accept. —Of \$129,50 raised for Home Missions, in the church of Collinsville, Ill., \$120,50 was given by ladies, \$105 of this amount being from widows.—Rev. T. Hill, of Shelbyville, Ill., Jan. 29th, received from his people, donations amounting to \$227, in value.—Rev. N. A. Hunt asks a dismission from Alton Presbytery to Minnesota Conference.—Rev. H. B. Holmes of Dubuque, Iowa, received \$127 from his people. A new church was organized at Des Moines, Iowa, Jan 28th, composed of twenty-three members. This people have rented a church edifice for two years, at \$100 per year, with liberty to use as much of the rent as may be necessary to fit it up for use. They have invited Alex. M. Heiser, a licentiate now at Auburn, New York, to become their minister, and wait for him until next May. They offer a salary of \$800.—The church at St. Joseph, Mo., have called Rev. B. B. Parsons, of Lacon, Ill., to be pastor. He is likely to accept.—A revival in the Church of Monticello, Ill., Rev. Geo. L. Little pastor is reported. The Female Seminary in that place shares in the work.—In the Seminary the observance of the last Thursday of February, as a day of fasting and prayer, gave a most marked and decided impetus to the work.—The church at Augusta, Ill., besides making a donation visit to the pastor. Rev. Edwin L. Hurd added \$200, to his salary and canceled debts, amounting to over \$1000.