The American Presbyterian

GENESEE EVANGELIST.

RELIGIOUS AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER, IN THE INTEREST OF THE

Constitutional Presbyterian Church. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY,

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CONTENTS OF INSIDE PAGES,

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FRENCH INFI-DELITY.

A particular plant is sometimes spoken of, as having its habitat in a specific locality-that is, it is either supposed there to have had its origin, or there at least to be most frequent or productive. In a somewhat similar way we might speak of infidelity as being indigenous in France. For centuries the world has seen it springing up there in philosophic groves and episcopal gardens. The Sorbonne even has sheltered it and the theatre has cultured it. How shall this be explained? The blood of the St. Bartholomew massacre, and the dragonades that followed the Revocation of the edict of Nantes a century later, have left stains on the hands and robes of the Roman Catholic church which time will never wash out; many a mind, sagacious. generous, impassioned, has been made to feel that the highest virtue of humanity was to hate that foe of human peace and liberty, and it is scarcely surprising that investigation, should reject at once the hierarchy and the religion it represents —the only religion in many cases that he knows anything about. Blind to the past as well as the future, the modern priesthood, by intolerance, false miracles, ultramontane sympathies and scrupulous if not superstitious ritual, takes good care not to conciliate the disgust excited by the history of the last three centuries.

what she is. Her history is a most instructive one. Of the Roman Catholic Church, her children have asked bread and she has given them a stone-or dagger. Her greatest names, with the ext ception of Fepelon, Pascal and few others, have been those of the Apostles of unbelief. Rabelais was the Lucian of his age, and even in ecclesiastical robes and employment, he could not keep down the gross humor with which he carica- of the New Testament with the assump tured the church. Montaigne's faith in | tions and traditions of the papacy. the priesthood would compare favorably with Cicero's in the soothsayers (haruspices.) Moliers' Tartuffe--gibbeting priestly hypocrisy, and immortalizing his bigoted foes as well as his own geni- find a full report of the late meeting in us-provoked the Archbishop of Paris | behalf of this eminent Christian charity to deny him Christian burial. Diderot in our columns. We give the report. and the Encyclopedists snatched the not only for its intrinsic interest, but wreath of learning from mitred brows, and did more perhaps than they intend- mencement of a new series of efforts to ed, to transfer respect and authority to diffuse intelligence concerning the nathe school of Voltaire-making him in- ture and wants of this great Christian deed the Pope of "illuminated" Frenchmen. Nay that strange genius himself sympathics of the evangelical churches -the sworn foe of the papacy-hated religion for the crimes that were done in the nation. Similar efforts are about to its name. The Atheism of the French | be made in all the great centres of revolution was but the blossoming of business and population throughout our that century plant of infidelity, which country. If they are met with the same had been moistened by the blood of popular enthusiasm and the same liberal martyrs and pruned by the hand of per-

It is thus that France has become

That caricature of the life of Christblending scepticism and credulity, mea- proposed to be raised will soon be in gre fact and romantic fancy—which has the treasury of the Commission. At placed Renan on the list of this infidel succession, affords only a new illustratration of the revolt of reason from the absurd claims of the Papacy. He admits that no one could have written his book who had not first believed and then ceased to believe. Evidently he had been disgusted with Romanism, and the reaction carried him into Pantheism. And yet this is only what we must ex pect as no infrequent occurrence, so long as Christianity is known to Frenchmen under a Roman mask. They lack the patience needed to put the mask aside and examine the real features which it has been nobly begun, will go rapidly covers. As if to make the matter worse, the French National Church has been be enabled to send hundreds of devoted hitherto for a long period semi-unitarian men, with stores and consolations for and leavened with errors that forbade the bodies and souls of the wounded harmonious Christian effort. French- suffering and dying heroes of the great men have seen Christianity only under battles now taking place. There is not disguise, and have failed to do it justice If its real character and its practical workings were but once properly apprehended by them, we cannot but feel sanguine that a speedy change would fol- solation or of prayer from those Chrislow in popular sentiment and feeling tian friends who, but for want of means, not on the roll of the Ripley Presbytery tions from year to year, speak of this as

religious condition of the French mind, hour of final anguish. and yet unless we do, we are not prepared to appreciate its infidel tenden- prove so decisive as practically to quell now return from a state of isolation to interesting a document that we take the cies, or to forecast the possibilities of the rebellion, the necessity of fighting the Indianapolis Presbytery.

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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1864. PHILADELPHIA.

and the results of his observations show kindly of the "English Religion," and his lot fell among dissenters, or at least tian Commission. We earnestly hope Evangelical churchmen. The English the churches will show their wisdom religion, he says:

Is exclusively directed to produce a moral effect, to building up a character amount. that shall be based on fixed principles, and shall resist temptation. There is that the nothing in it of Byzantine subtleties; the curious speculations of Germany find no place in it. The feminine softness of Catholicism is not to be found in it. There is nothing like the Spouse of the Soul, the Consoler and Friend dreamt of in the tender reveries of the Imitatio Christi. It bears the impress of the Old Testament and the stern He-

brew Psalms; and the same spirit, the looking for justice and the triumph of the God of Justice breathes through the hymns that are sung with enthusiasm English churches. Although a Frenchman, and born in a different a Frenchman, impatient of slow sifting creed, I listened to these hymns with sincere admiration and feeling They seemed to be high-pitched and serious poems, which gave a glimpse into the infinite, and appeared fit to satisfy the deep poetical instinct, the vague desire for the sublime and the melancholy of

the English race.

We trust the day is not far distant when Frenchmen will not need to cross the English Channel to learn what genuine Protestantism is. The separation which seems now to be taking place between the lax latitudinarian and the evangelical elements of the French churches may yet be overruled to attract the attention of the nation and teach it what genuine spiritual religion is. Let that less on be once learned, and we shall have no more apprehension that such men as Voltaire, D'Alembert, Renan, &c., will be produced to mislead their countrymen or persuade them, with gross injustice, to identify spiritual religion and the Christianity

THE MEETING FOR THE CHRISTIAN

COMMISSION. Our readers will no doubt be glad to more especially as it marks the comenterprise, and to quicken anew the in the work of evangelizing the army of response as have been manifested in our city, the movement must be a great success, and the half a million of money this critical stage of our conflict, when the most important series of movements in the whole war are in process of

execution, and when, amid great and perhaps unprecedented carnage, the blows which are meant to be final are being dealt on the chief armies of the rebellion, it is a reproach to the evangelical churches of the land that the treasury of its greatest agency for the spiritual, moral and physical relief of serious consideration and prayer and the soldiers is empty, or nearly so. We earnestly hope that the movement to replenish it, though tardy, now that it in subduing the world to Christ. forward, and that the Commission will a moment to spare. Even while we

mangled bodies, without a word of con-It is difficult for us to understand the might have been by their side in the as reported on our minutes. They prob- the most thorough and satisfactory of

its future; yet as an illustration of the being over, there would yet remain, effect produced by a candid study of while the army continued to exist, a Protestant institutions and worship on great need of the active labours of the the mind of an intelligent Roman Catho- Commission, in carrying the gospel to lic, we may cite the recent testimony of soldiers by the living agent and by the W. Taine, author of a popular French printed page. Nowhere, perhaps, in all work on the history of English Litera- the world, at this time, is there such a nothing may occur to hinder the proture. He visited England not long since, field for evangelistic effort as in the ranks of our army, and it will long conthe favorable impression which was made tinue to be most inviting and most upon his mind. He speaks more than important. There will, therefore, in any case, be a call for every dollar of the we should judge from his language that | half a million now asked for the Chrisand their appreciation of the crisis and the opportunity, by furnishing the entire

> Since the above was written, we learn that the Commission has one hundred delegates on the battle-field in Virginia; and on Monday morning twenty more were prepared to go, pending the orders of the War Department.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

While it is undoubtedly true that the condition of our own country attracts and should receive the first consideration from all charitable and Christian men, we see no necessity for diminishing our charities to the great permanent causes of benevolence, especially to that of foreign missions. We have, by the blessing of God, enough to answer the ordinary and the extraordinary calls made upon us. Nor do we believe that Christian men intend to slight any of them. The friends of Foreign Missions--in other words all true Christians and enlightened men-assuredly will not net ticipated. The air is bracing, the gleet the various agencies by which the truth is carried to the heathen world. The regular contributors to the Ameri-

the devotedly loyal of the land. They bers of the Association, and my warm-have therefore been using their means est love to our dear people. Wife and have therefore been using their means liberally, to promote the success of the national army and to meet the various novel demands made by the crisis upon their benevolence. This may account for the slight decline in the receipts of the Board thus far in the current year. But we will not allow ourselves to believe that they will suffer greatly enlarged even in comparison this decline to continue, and not rather with its own former ample dimensions. increase their contributions, to meet the deficiency and to cover the increased expenses of the Board arising from the high price of exchange. To meet these deficiencies and this increased expenditure, the Board will require \$281,-000 in the remaining months of the financial year. This would once have been counted a formidable sum for such an object, but what is it amid the vast amounts pouring into the treasury of the Sanitary Commission, in no small measure from the purses of the friends of the American Board? Let the liberal men-we do not mean only the rich men-of the churches sustaining the Board, contemplate the fact, and resolve that the sum shall be made up; and these churches—which are strongest in the most important and prosperous parts of the country-will not feel it when they have done the whole work. It would be a scandal to these churches and to the Christian name that the American Board, with such a constituency, should, of all the mission enterprises of our country, show a decline in prosperity. For the fact is, so far as our knowledge goes, the others are on

the advance, some of them decidedly so-Ministers and sessions of churches, especially where no contributions have yet been made, as well as private members, should make the subject a matter of should act liberally as sustaining one of the most important of all our agencies

CORDIALLY RETURNING.—At the late session of the Indianapolis Presbytery, the Churches of Kingston and Clarksburg, recently under the care of Ripley Presbytery, were taken, at their own exercises of the occasion went on s request, under the care of the first ly, delightfully and successfully. named Presbytery, from which they withdrew several years since, to unite with the Free Synod. They were very are passing out of the gaping wounds of tions.

The names of these two churches are accustomed to witness these examinal faith. He was a warm friend of this ably remained aloof at the union of that any; and the report of the Examining ber of his class, he was not largely And should these great engagements | Presbytery with our body, last year, and | Committee was so discriminating and

DR. TUSTIN'S LETTER.

We have space barely to call the friends of this institution who were not readers' attention to Dr. Tustin's letter in reply to our late editorial on Presbyterian Union, on one of our inside pages. and to express our earnest hope, that gress of our brethren of the other branch to a position in which it would be at once safe, judicious, happy and for the glory of God for the two branches to delightful man. His theme, as near as unite. We believe they are making progress, and nothing is farther from our minds than, as intimated in some quarters, to discourage such movements. We should count it one of the greatest triumphs of Christian principle in our day, to find our brethren sympathizing with us fully in our attitude towards slavery, towards the national government, and inreference to the real, essential elements of the Calvinistic system

LETTER FROM MR. ADAMS.

Many of our readers will be interested in the fallowing brief letter received from Mr. Adams pastor of North Broad Street Church, a few days ago. Mr. A. sailed for Boston on the last day of April.

E. CONCORD, N. H., May 3d, 1864. DEAR BROTHER MEARS:-According to request I write to say that we reached our destination yesterday at an early hour, after a pleasant trip. I am now writing in the old sitting-room, by whose southern window a branch of my mother's rose bush puts out its fresh leaves. I have just made the discovery that the monument which marks our family graves is visible through the trees of the garden two miles distant. I find more of my "child's world" than I ever anscenery delightful, and the neighbors welcome us. We hear no sound but that of bird-voices and the ticking of the clock. I love the stillness, the rest. can Board are almost exclusively among Give my brotherly greeing to the memboy all well. Yours fraternally, E. E. ADAMS.

NEWSPAPER ENLARGEMENT.

The venerable Presbyterian, the staunch organ of the other branch in this city and in New York, comes to us and in the form of a double sheet. This is the second instance of enterprise of this sort among the religious papers of our city, in the present year; our own being the first. We regard the Presbyterian, in its present form and dimensions as unnecessarily and inconveniently large and the ambition of the proprietors to make it the "largest religious paper of the country" seems to us extravagant. Yet we welcome every evidence of advancement on the part of the organs of our evangelical churches, and we offer to our cotemparary in its newform, and to its loyal and able editor, our best wishes for its success.

WE shall publish a series of two or more articles on the life and character of John Calvin, commemorative of the Ter-centenary of his death, commencing with our next issue. They are from the pen of Rev. E. H. GILLETT, of Harlem. N. Y., author of the very popular and successful work, "Life and Times of John Huss."

Our readers will be gratified to learn that Mr. GILLETT has become a regular contributor to our columns.

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPON-DENT.

ANNIVERSARY OF AUBURN SEMINARY.

The day was fine. After a fortnight of cold, stormy, "sour" weather, the wind had gently shifted on the previous evening a few points to the south, and the sun rose clear and beautiful, and the entire day was balmy, bright and inspiring. It evidently put the professors and students and visitors, all, in their best mood; and, of course, therefore, the this life about a year ago. He was a exercises of the occasion went on smooth-

The Annual Examination had been in progress during the previous three write, doubtless, precious, noble souls cordially received to their former reladays, which it was not our privilege to attend, but of which we hear the best We clip the above from the Evangelist. possible account. Many who have been liberty of sending it entire for publica. *It will be found in another column.

tion. We know it will gratify the many permitted to be present, to see it in

your columns.*

We failed also to be in time to hear the address of Rev. Dr. Smith, of Buffalo, before the Rhetorical Society on Wednesday evening, but those who did hear it, speak of it as one of the most brilliant and happy efforts of that brilliant and we can learn, was, self-conviction as an element of power in the pulpit; and he spent considerable time in showing how that self-conviction may be attained; or assurance in the truth; and in this connection he gave a brilliant exposition of the inductive philosophy, as superior to all other methods. Those who heard the address enjoyed it exceedingly, and words almost fail them when they attempt to speak their admiration. Next time the Doctor speaks on such an occasion, we hope it may be our privilege to hear and enjoy for ourselves.

On Thursday morning the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, and of the Commissioners occurred. These two bodies were made glad by the evident tokens of divine favor toward the institution in the past year, which has been one of unexampled prosperity, about \$50,000 having been added by donations to the permanent funds of the seminary. No less than \$6,000 came from the Third Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, of which Rev. Herrick Johnson, an alumnus and a favorite of this institution, is the pastor. Fifteen thousand dollars came from an anony mous friend in New York. The scholar. ship fund has been increased in the last year to \$24,000, enabling them to aid many students who need it; and nearly \$20,000 have been secured as a permanent fund for the Library. This, when it is all in a] productive shape, will furnish a very handsome yearly income to be expended in the purchase of books.

But where to keep the books, that is the question which the Trustees and Faculty of the institution wish its friends and admirers seriously to ponder. A fire-proof | tee to Colorado; and one (G. G. Smith) building for the safe keeping of the libra- is yet to go to Idaho. ry, is now felt to be a pressing want.

The library now contains 8000 the other half? Surely it is good compa-And we know, from personal observation, that the ample grounds of the seminary furnish a beautiful site for such a building, at a little remove from the main edifice; and the soil upon the favored spot seems waiting and willing to be removed, to make room for the sure foundation; the stone is uneasy in the quarry, and the timber is restless in the Florentine Reformer, F. A. Parmenwho will be the means of bringing these this site a beauty and a joy to look upon George White. for all time to come?

In this connection, we may also mention that William E. Dodge, Esq., has supported ten of the young men here in the past year; and C. R. Robert, Esq. seven. The benefactions of these gen-

men, in this direction, are princely But another gift of the past year was perhaps, more remarkable and touching than all the rest. Rev. Ralph Robinson, an old man and full of days, departed strong man; had preached the gospel for fifty-four years; had resided mostly in the northern part of the state, and died in New Haven, Oswego death. He was a thorough Calvinist, a man of strong convictions and great institution and of sound theological instruction, but, like the greater numendowed with this world's goods. He

TERMS

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clubrates. Home missionaries at \$1 per annum. POSTAGE.—Five cents quarterly in advance. to be paid by subscribers at the office of de-

could not make princely donations, build fire-proof libraries, or found professorships or scholarships; but he did what he could. As he saw that the time of his departure was near, he desired of his friends to be buried in a plain coffin, and that the difference of expense between that and a more costly one, whatever it might be, should be sent by them as his gift to this seminary, to aid, as far as it might, in putting some one into the ministry, when his voice should be silent in the grave. In accordance with this request, a letter was received from his son, Rev. Samuel N. the proper methods, as we should say, of Robinson, enclosing ten dollars, as the amount realized in that way. The Trustees were touched with this gift and made suitable mention of it in their records, besides sending acknowledgment to the friends of the deceased. It should be some good, godly young man, to whom that gift should go; and we are sure he will find a blessing in it. In the absence of Rev. J. R. Page, of Perry, the appointee to preach before the Alumni of the Seminary, Rev. Dr. Fisher, of Hamilton College, kindly consented, on short notice, to take his place, and gave one of his characteristic dis-

The graduating class numbers twentyfour-it was twenty-five; but one (John W. Holm) is not, for God took him. He was a colored man of fine scholarship and great promise, preparing to be a professor of Theology in Liberia, and to labor for the regeneration of Africa. He was universally respected and beloved, and died deeply lamented.

The speaking by the members of the graduating class was good. The themes were all well handled. There was not an inferior piece among them. We append the names and subjects of the speakers, also the names of the graduating class; only remarking, in conclusion, that they have all found places already, or, rather, the places found them. One indeed, (T. S. Marsh) had leave of absence about a month since, and has already gone under appointment of the Home Missionary Commit-

Some are to be employed in churches of this State, and some further west. volumes, well selected and valuable. P. R. Day was ordained on Friday even-This fund will enable the officers to add ing, by the Prebsytery of Cayuga, and five hundred volumes a year to its is to labor as a city missionary in Troy. treasures. It would be a fearful disaster A. C. Shaw, (son of Rev. Dr. Shaw, of to have all these destroyed some day by Rochester,) whose address pleased us the flames. There is one man, a prince much, goes to Claysville. W. J. Beecher, of benevolence, William E. Dodge, Esq., who is neither a son nor a grandson of who appreciates the danger, and offers to Lyman, and who is nevertheless a give one half of \$15,000 to erect at once young man of superior abilities and a substantial fire-proof building for the promise, has received and accepted a accommodation and safety of the library. call to settle at Ovid. George White Where is the man, his peer, who will give goes to Schaghticoke; Wm. Campbell to Chaumont; H. M. Higley to Onandaga ny to be in; and the officers of the institu- Hollow; W. W. Wetmore to Ann Artion are quite as willing that two should bor, Michy and E. Dickinson to Fentondo it as a dozen. Perhaps it would ville, in the same State. An excellent be easier passing a vote of thanks. farewell address to the graduating class was given by Rev. Dr. Hall, affection. ately dismissing the young men to their

Names and Themes of the Speakers .-Hebrew Poetry, C. H. Beebee; Depth and its counterfeits, W. J. Beecher; Humanitarian Tendency of the Pulpit: Its Remedy, E. Dickinson; Savonarola, the woods;—where is the man of \$7,500 | ter; The Ultimate Reason, A. C. Shaw; Natural and Revealed Ethics, W. W. things into their places, and of making | Wetmore; The Divine Theory of Unity,

> The last named was unable to appear, being prostrated by sickness.

GRADUATING CLASS.

Clarence H. Bebee, S. Hamilton; Willis J. Beecher, Vernon Centre; W. K. Boggs, Fairton, N. J.; Wm. Campbell, Kossuth, Iowa; P. R. Day, West Avon, Conn.; Edward Dickinson, Linden, Mich.; A. L. Greene, Brier Hill; G. L. Hamilton, Johnsonville, O.: James T. Hanning, Staten Island; A. M. Heizer, Kossuth, Iowa; H. M. Higley, Owego; John, W. Holm, St. Thomas W. I.; John Kelland, Flint, Mich.; A. B. Lamberton, Plattsburg; C. M. Livcounty, a most happy and triumphant ingston, Johnstown; T. D. Marsh, Grand Rapids, Mich.; F. A. Parmenter, Owego: C. P. Quick, Birmingham, Mich.; D. M. Rankin, Sunbury, Pa.; Isaiah Reid, Kossuth, Iowa; A. C. Shaw, Rochester; Geo. G. Smith, Philadelphia, Pa.; J. B. Steele, Middlebury, Vt.; W. W. Wetmore, Whitesboro'; George White, Hun-GENESER. tington, C. E.

ROCHESTER, May 6, 1864.