PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1864.

Gaitor's Table.

SPRAGUE. Memoirs of the Rev. John Mc-Dowell, D. D., and the Rev. William A. McDowell, D. D., by Rev. William B. Sprague, D. D., of Albany. New York: Robert Carter & Bros. 12mo. pp. 305, with portrait.

The distinction and the success which in this world are often won by consistent goodness, fidelity, industry and general soundness and symmetry of character, without any remarkable intellectual endowments, are well exhibit ed in this volume, particularly in the life of Dr. John McDowell. As says bath-school, tells the story of this thrivone of the contributors in a letter to | ing, numerous and much-blessed organi-Dr. Sprague: "To one class of persons zation with fullness, accuracy, and the memoir will probably be very useful, animation, relieving it entirely of mere viz: to young ministers of the gospel. When an ordinary young man contemplates the wonders achieved by the character. Over a thousand names are amazing eloquence and genius of White- | on the roll of this great hive, and we field, Hall or Chalmers, he says, 'Such | think a swarming process would sugattainments are so high that I can never | gest itself to pastor and a people as a reach them. It is presumption to think useful and appropriate incident in the of it.' But when he shall see Dr. middle of the century of their prosper-McDowell, remarkable chiefly for piety, common sense, singleness of purpose, bringing many hundreds of souls into the church, and greatly edifying God's people, he will say : ' By God's blessing I too may be distinguished for my ser vices in the Master's cause.""

His ministry in Elizabeth and in the two churches he occupied in this city, resulted in bringing into the communion of these churches 1333 persons on profession of their faith, besides nearly a thousand on certificate. He was repeatedly called to other and wider fields of labour in the pulpit and in professors' chairs, but in vain. He maintained his vigorous exertions for his Master's cause unabated to a late period of his life. Philadelphia counts his work in the Spring Garden Church, especially, as one of the wonders of her ecclesiastical history. That church, of which Judge Allison, formerly one of its members, beautifully speaks, as "the child of his old age," was, as we all remember, built twice over by Dr. McDowell, at an age when most men would have felt it proper to assume a "supernumerary relation." We well remember, as we gazed at the ruins of the first structure, which had been crushed by a great weight of damp snow on a poorly-braced roof, what questionings arose in our minds as to the probable effect upon the aged pastor. But the indomitable old man rose superior to the disaster, and meeting from the community that sympathy which the circumstances demanded and which was greatly stimulated by his own "pluck," he gathered with greater case than before the sum needful to repair the damages and for years afterwards prosecuted with vigor and acceptance his pulpit ministrations

Allibone. 4. Our General Synod. 5. Lord's Prayer, from the German of Delitzsch. 6. Literature of the Lutheran Church of the United States. 7 Deceased Lutheran Ministers. 8. Meaning of Baptizo in the New Testament. 9. New Publications.

THE REMEMBRANCE OF FORMER DAYS A Sermon preached on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church, Kensington, March 23, 1864, by the pastor, Wm. T. Eva. A most welcome contribution to the history of our churches. Mr. Eva. pastor, himself once a scholar in the Sabdry detail. His own personal reminiscences contribute much to its interesting

ous history.

ON CERTAIN HARMONIES OF THE So-LAR SYSTEM, By Prof. Danl. Kirkwood, Indiana State University, from the American Journal of Science and the Arts, for July, 1864.

Prof. Kirkwood is already favorably known as the author of certain laws of the relations of the planetary bodies-their masses, motions, and distanceswhich in this article he still further elaborates. The theory of the writer here stated rests upon the supposition that " in the first stages of their history Neptune and Uranus constituted a system of closely associated [nebulous] rings; Saturn and Jupiter another, &c., and that the law of planetary distances to be disbursed upon equal principles, might be found in the relative situation of the centres of gyration of those binary rings." His researches, he says, "led to the hypothesis, that the differences of the radii of gyration of the primitive rings, form a geometrical series.'

CATALOGUES

Annual Announcement and Catalogue of Milton Classical Institute. Rev. W. T. Wylie, A. M., and E. H. Bancroft, A. M., Principals. Annual Report of Indiana University. including the Catalogue for the Academical Year 1863-1864, Bloomington.

DISABLED MINISTERS' FUND.

The Committee on the subject of provision for Disabled Ministers and the Families of Deceased Ministers, in indigent circumstances, respectfully REPORT :

That in discharging the duty assigned them, they have given a careful examination to the whole subject as one which deeply involves the honor and prosperity of the Presbyterian Church, and which, therefore, carnestly calls for immediate attention and effective regard.

that every other branch of the

takes of Educated Men, by S. Austin | red by their ordination vows from other | small fund to meet exigencies arising occupations, their support is assured by from general local causes connected with the church for life. If there be an obli- the financial condition of the country. gation resting upon the State honorably They favor the immediate adoption by to retire and provide for its disabled life the Assembly of the plan as thus stated, servants, and to extend such provision and beg leave to present the following to their families, equally imperative is as the principal the duty of the Church to do the same for its adoption : for her dependant ministers and their families. No Christian State fails to meet this obligation in some measure. No branch of Christ's spiritual Kingdom should occupy a less honorable position.

These considerations plainly indicate ministeral provision to the end of life by the Church of Christ to be the just claim of Christ's servants, and the duty of his people. Be it noted and kept distinctly in view, that it is a *claim* of the one and a duty of the other ; not a charity received by one and dispensed by the other. It might be added, a just policy demands of the church a cordial interest in and faithful discharge of this duty. The church needs men. Men, and especially young, inexperienced, and partially sanctified men, need, at least, the ordinary inducements in reference to future provision. If they give themselves to this work, and so cut themselves off from all other means of securing sustenance in the future, they ought to feel and know that they and theirs will not be left to penury and its consequent suffering. II. As the second and main branch of their report, the Committee next refer to the plans by which this duty of the church has been proposed to be accomplished. From the actual investigation it is found that only three plans have been seriously considered, or attempted to be carried into execution by other branches of the Church of Christ. 1st. The use of the principle of Life Insurance.

2d. The raising, by immediate and direct appeal to the churches, of a Permanent Fund, the interest on which shall suffice to meet the wants of those for whom provision is intended.

3d. Annual Contributions by all the churches, to constitute a common Fund, under judicious rules.

1. The Committee would remark with respect to the first of these plans, the annual investment of premiums in behalf of individual ministers, either in an association created by a particular denomination or in existing Life Insurance to narrow the range and sharpen the Companies, that only a single denomi-nation has adopted and attempted to use the principle of Life assurance. For nearly thirty years the Reformed Dutch Church have had an association based upon this principle within their bounds. As that plan is now undergoing a radical revision by the body, it may not be improper to state, that, as clearly shown by its history, it has utterly failed. The failure is sufficiently indicated by the fact, that the fund yielded for distribution among its own annuitants only \$104 the year last reported. But it needs no illustration to show that those who most need provision cannot be reached, the wants of the great majority, at least, of this class cannot be met by any practicable use of imperatively calls for that of annual the principle of life assurance. That collections in behalf of the class in quesprinciple is of necessity specific in its tion. The Church of Christ needs the application, local and limited in its bene-frequent repeated appeal in behalf of fits. There is no adjustment possible Christ's poor, as one one of the most therefore, carnestly calls for immediate whereby the principle can be univer-attention and effective regard. From actual investigation it appears collections distributed according to exi-admitted, is the object of the divine

as the principal reasons to be assigned

As respects the distinction between a general and local (for example, a Presby. terial or Synodical) fund, it is evident that the former alone can secure ade qate and equal provisions for all. A general fund is necessary to equalize the burden upon the church by bringing in her wealthier portions to supplement the contributions of the poorer. It is essen-tial, too, since practically the larger number of those needing assistance are found in the feebler sections of the church. Furthermore, it is in accordance with the generic order of Christ, that the strong should support the weak; and with the apostle's specific direction to the wealthy church of Corinth, "that their abundance should supply the want of others, that there might be equality." In the next place, comparing the plan of Aunual Collections with that of a Permanent Fund, it is to be observed that the former, i. e. the collection of a few thousand dollars year by year, could not and would not interfere with the rules of distribution as they shall deem demands of the great charities now incorporated into the organic working of our church; while the raising of a Perinterests of our body. Further, as a consideration directly bearing upon the

comparative value of the two plans, it is underiably just that every generation: should bear its own burdens and meet its own obligations. It is unjust to impose upon the State and the Church of the present generation the burdens and claims which belong to a future generation. It were as just, aye, and as wise, to exact from the citizens now constituting this State or this Nation the T C. FLRRINE. millions or thousands of millions necessary to support governmental and other institutions for a hundred years to come; it were as just and wise to ask of the existing generation of Christians the means of sustaining the ministry, and carrying on the operations of the church for the entire future of her history ; ger, point of the analogy, it were as just and wise to put upon the present generation of Christian and benevolent men the maintenance, for an indefinite period in the future, of all other classes of Christ's poor, as to require or to do it in behalf of this particular class. Manifestly the simplest justice exacts a similar obligation in this last as in all the preceding particulars. Manifestly each generation of citizens is bound to support its own institutions of State; each generation of Christians is bound to sustain its own church institutions and servants; to minister to the wants alike of its active and its disabled ministry. And not justice merely, but the highest utility opposes the plan of endowment, while it imperatively calls for that of annual Commission Merchants for the Sale of Coal Oils. 947-40

disbursed, the Committe recommend, in outline simply, that it be entrosted to the care and control of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, to be by them disbursed, through a Secretary or Agent to be appointed for the purpose, upon the recommendation of the several Presbyteries within whose bound its deserving claimants reside; and that the principles and rules of distribution be

left to the considerate judgement of the gentlemen composing the board. In conclusion, the Committee submit the following resolution for the adoption of this General Assembly:

1. Resolved, That a fund, to be called "The Ministerial Relief Fund," for the relief of disabled ministers in connection with this body, and the families of ministers who have acceased while in our connection, be constituted by annual collections, in all our churches.

2. Resolved, That in order to constitute and maintain such fund, it is hereby enjoined upon all our Presbyteries to take such action as shall secure an annual contribution thereto.

3. Resolved, That the fund thus col lected be entrusted to the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, to be by them disbursed upon the recommendation of Presbyteries, upon such principles and most equal and benefical.

4. Resolved, That for the special oversight and care of the interest thus commanent Fund would, for the years spent mitted to them, the Trustees are authorin its slow accumulation, act with a real ized to appoint a Secretary, whose and serious detriment to these leading duties shall be prescribed, and whose salary determined by the board.

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MILITARY DEPARTMENT

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under the restored structure.

We have not space to allude to the many interesting reminiscences which could be extracted from the volume. Long ago, Dr. McDowell foresaw the present struggle, and rightly judged and denounced its cause. We may at a future time find room for some ex- fering class. tracts.

PAMPHLETS AND MAGAZINES.

THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND THEOLOGICAL REVIEW. July, 1864. Contents : Relations of the Pulpit to the State, by Rev. R. B. Thurston, Waltham, Mass. 2. The Taborites and the Germ of the Moravian Church, by Rev. E. H. Gillett. 3. Messiah's Second Advent, by Dr. Hatfield. 3. Epistle of Barnabas. 5. Theories of Currency, by Eleazar Lord. 6. The General Assembly. 7. The Logos in John and Philo, by this General Assembly of that mefrom the German of Delitzch. 8. Critieism on Books.

On the whole, a heavy number. Mr. Gillett's article is a valuable addition to church bistory, and clears up what in | tion of the church rests in this matter. his "John Hass" had to be left somewhat obscure from want of authorities since in the hands of the faithful and painstaking writer. We observe that assuch with a sublime emphasis of truth, and, it is believed, argument too, though the North American Review makes quite a show of learned and hostile criticism support of Unrist's people is underlative own past experience in the gathering of part of Unrist's and foremost. If the law of Christ, "Do Permanent Funds, in the history and and report it as working well. The good unto all men," imposes an obligative the actual raising of our Church Erection other branch of our own Church having, to the amagk a second time in the late number. The critic in the North American is at least as shallow and as ignorant of the original source as he imagines the author to be; whereas the little, but ably-conducted sheet, published in this State, called the Moravian, has shown more real knowledge of the facts than the critic of the North American: and while accepting Mr. Gillett's work as one of great merit and general accuracy, has correctly indicated the few points in which the author needed further light. Mr. Gillett may well smile term of active service. So Christ's min- kept in active use, this would lie still, for special contributions and legaces toat the attacks of the North American carried on with a pertinacity suggestive of some unworthy motive; they will only give notoriety to a work which needs but to be known to be appreciated.

THE EVANGELICAL QUARTERLY RE-VIEW (Latheran) for July, 1864, publisbel at flettyshurg, contains 1. Sacra-mental Meditations on the presence of active ministry, but for life. As the strongly commending this plan, with their benefactions should receive during

5

or through its subordinate ecclesiastical bodies, has adopted and carried into effect some measure for the relief of its a Permanent Fund, to be raised by im- of all the stimulants to a Christlike symministers and their families; while, it | mediate and direct appeal to the churchmust be acknowledged, that we have thus es; a fund of sufficient amount to meet, far failed to initiate any effort to make by its accruing interest, the wants of

The Committee, believing that its appast inaction, beg leave to submit, First and succinctly, certain considerations of and only remaining plan-Christian duty and church policy upon church to provide for her disabled servants; and next, more fully to state the several plans by which this duty has been proposed to be accomplished, with a commendation to immediate adoption | jected this plan. It is another fact and | your Committee, best adapted to accomplish the desired object.

1. The grounds upon which the opligaare simple, clear and positive. For the least and lowest consideration, as a portion of Christ's poor, as among the hightion on his people to help the unfortunate, tion and Publication Endowments. the improvident, and even the vicious, its spiritual heads are included in the obligations of that law.

A higher and more positive considershould live of the gospel." The priests In the act of consecration, followed by the life of self-devotion, they give them- ment. selves and theirs in solemn compact to agrees to accept this service, to receive cious rules.

gencies actually arising in ministry.

suitable provision in behalf of this suf- those for whom provision is intended. Concerning this scheme, which has had the Christian's heart. Hence, in this many and earnest advocates, the Com- appeal and response in behalf of Christ's pointment indicates a disposition on the mittee in this place would simply refer poor, the Church finds alike a duty, a part of the church to remove the re- to the following facts, leaving the more proach which has justly attached to its positive objections to its adoption to be with regard to the poor of other classes mentioned in connection with the third | ifdaty, privilege, and spiritual advantage

which is based the obligation of the inconsiderable weight, that the other est class, Christ's disabled, dependent, great branch of our Presbyterian body, suffering ministers-those faithful ones after a most thorough examination and discussion, protracted through many while they could whose toils have pre-General Assemblies, has decisively re- cluded their laying up this world's goods by this General Assembly of that me-the argument, that but one denomination of firmity. The last and most convincing consi Episcopal body, has attempted to sup- deration in favor of the Plan of Annual ply the wants of its disabled ministers through a permanent fund, and the ef- it has had a trial. The actual experifort has come very far short of the accomplishment of the object. Their main dicates this plan to be the most practireliance for this supply is now, as it al- cable and efficient in its working, and ways has been, upon the annual collec. | in all its effects, both upon the ministry est class of his needy ones, characterized tions in their churches., The other fact, and church, productive of the best, most the claim of Christ's ministers to the of a peculiar character, is found in our the Methodist, and Protestant Episcosupport of Christ's people is undeniably own past experience in the gathering of pal Churches, have all long adopted it, This history, it is believed, gives no en- adopted it, (with the addition of the without the pale of the church, by the couragement to the most enthusiastic request for special donations and lega same law are they required especially to advocate of a fund for the object under cies,) report that the plan produces aid those that are of the household of consideration. It fails to suggest even yearly an amount in excess of the de-faith. And if the members of that a speculative faith in the practicability mand. The Secretary in charge of this household, surely also they that have of realizing, within any definite term of interest reports to the Assembly now in been solemnly set apart and received as | years, a fund of two, three, or four hun- | session at Newark, the disbursement of dred thousand dollars for an object so about \$14,000, and a surplus of nearly intrinsically worthy and desirable as \$10,000 in the treasu y, as the history this. It might be added as a serious ob- of the plan for the year just closed. ation is suggested by the divine ordina- jection to the existence of such fund, if Sustained by these considerations and tion, "that they who preach the gospel it could be gathered, that it would lock facts, your Committee confidently comup and leave to stagnate a large amount mend to the adoption by the Assembly of the temple were consecrated and sup- of money. Unlike the Erection and of the Plan of Annual Collections in all its ported for life, not merely during their Publication Funds, the bulk of which is churches, together w th a standing request isters are self consecrated to the work merely earning its own small interest, ward the creation of a small permanent of the church for life. All their prepar- itself exposed to danger or dess, as well fund, the principal of which as well as inations are for that work, and that alone. as imposing very grave responsibilities terest may be drawn upon to meet unanti-In the act of consecration, followed by upon those charged with its manage-cipated exigencies.

the church. And, as every compact has nual Collections in all the churches to have an intelligent apprehension of the two parties with corresponding obliga- constitute a Common Fund, to be distions, the church on her part tacitly bursed upon equal principles, under judi- ation, the Committee venture to name.

Christ in the Holy Supper, from the employees of the church, laborers fitted the simple addition of a standing request the ensuing year. German of Sartorius. 2. Universities; for her work and nothing beside, self-for special contributions and legastics, in As respects the agency and method are gradual formation of a by which the fund so gatherd shall be wreak the fund so gatherd shall be wreak the fund so gatherd shall be wreak the bull of a by which the fund so gatherd shall be wreak the bull of the gradual formation of a by which the fund so gatherd shall be

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e changing arrangement, that we should have the of Christ, either in its organic capacity circumstances of our widely-scattered poor always with us. Herein is furnished the most lofty and persuasive of mo-2. The second plan proposed is that of tives, the most powerful and healthful pathy and beneficence. The very appeal, and much more the act of response, is adapted to waken, to exercise, and expand the kindliest, best feelings in privilege, and a benefit. It this be so demand a frequent appeal in their behalf It is a fact, and an argument of no much more with reference to this high

> who have toiled for Christ and souls in provision for the time of age and in-

Collections is, its uniform success where ence of other churches conclusively inuseful ends. The Moravian Brethren, after ten years of discussion, decisively

If this plan be adopted by the Assem-

3. The remaining plan is that of An-| bly, as it is important that the churches the sum of \$10,000 as that which this

