The American Presbyterian

GENESEE EVANGELIST.

RELIGIOUS AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER, IN THE INTEREST OF THE

Constitutional Presbyterian Church. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY, AT THE PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE,

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Rev. JOHN W. MEARS, Editor and Publisher.

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#### DEATH OF INFANTS.

Vain and transitory is human life. The psalmist meditating upon the subject, feels the need of divine assistance in gaining a view at all suited to the extreme and humiliating nature of the facts: "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am." And then, as if the light of the divine eternity had been flashed upon the subject, in which a thousand years are but the entreaties of the elders of his house as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night, he says: "Behold his affliction that they feared the consethou hast made my days as an hand quences of announcing to him the child's breadth, and mine age is as nothing death. But even David, far removed before thee! verily, every man at his as he was from the direct light of the best state, is altogether vanity." If Christian dispensation, proved that the this be true of man in his maturity and his pride, how vain and insignificant is the dying infant! How tiny the wreck | ties between man and the feeblest of his of its frail existence! How transient fellow-creatures, also brings consolation and imperceptible the impression it has in the severance of those ties. When left on human things! How uncon- he learned that the child was actually cerned the remorseless ages roll on, dead, he resumed his place and his while myriads of these creatures sink customary bearing; he came to the beneath the surface!

characteristic marks of heathenism to stay away—and from the depths of a despise and neglect frail and perishing soul refined and spiritualized by afflicinfancy, and, in manifold instances to tion, said: "I shall go to him, but he hasten its exit from the world. Espe- shall not return to me." cially are the feeble in body and the weaker in sex regarded as things of no consequence, or as objects of positive aversion and contempt. What multitudes have been buried alive, exposed to perish by starvation, flung to wild dimpled arms folded upon his motionless beasts, or roasted in the brazen arms of Moloch! The coral isles of the Pacific, their endless patterings. Gone from the temptuous estimate placed by heathen many orders of the brute creation, the heathen are at a disadvantage in this sorrowful looks and sympathies of asmatter of the treatment of their young. sembled friends, and with the solemn The bird grieves over its plundered services of the minister of religion, with nest, and the unwieldy mother whale | tears we lay the dear relics in the dust. hugs her calf and sacrifices her own life And what a deep peculiar interest · in trying to shield her young from the gathers at once around every object harpoon of the whaler-showing that when man lets go his hold on the God for whom he was made, he sinks below the creation which he was made to go-

But how contrary to all this is the estimate in which the little ones are held wherever the humanizing influences | have lost. of Christianity are felt. Eyen in Christian countries, it is true, all traces of frailest and shortest-lived of our kind is from the practices of neglectful, degraded marks of a Christian civilization. It are hardened wretches in the very the Bible, and especially of the New revelations of master sweeps in London prove, who even at this day hesitate not to inflict the most barbarous tortures upon their helpless little victims, in fitting them to be instruments of their without a relic of the old world conavarice But the indignation universally excited by such revelations proves how changed and elevated is the feeling of the of the Master, that they would have community towards the feeble and the ordered away all the little ones from infantile portion of its members. As a his presence as an annoyance and interrule, they are the object of the strongest affection and the tenderest care. The his presence, took them from the mohousehold rejoices in their presence and thers' arms into his own, and blessed joins to protect and to solace them. them, and spoke of them in such a close They are called by pet names. Their connection with his own spiritual flock humors and annoyances are patiently that we dare not distinguish so far as borne with. Their helplessness is a to say which is fact and which is illusconstant appeal to the strength and tration in his discourses of them, but until the very recondite idea of an viz: "The Rev. William Fithian presympathy of the rest. Their progress | must believe he meant also to include In powers of speech and locomotion is a these tender objects among the fruits of constant wonder and joy. By smiles, by encouraging tones, by outstretched if dying in infancy, a place in the prehands, by toys and contrivances, but sence of his Father forever more. above all, by unspeakable maternal love, how wondrously is baby helped along in the early part of life's journey! that Jesus' arms now take the place of Artists catch his chubby lineaments; the mother's warm embrace. That is great poets see clouds of glory trailing the reason why we feel it appropriate after him as he comes into the world; to celebrate with such tender respect ton! But we confess we do now see medicine has a distinct department and these funeral rites; because an immortal something of this spirit in the capital, a distinct literature upon his physiology and his diseases; the law takes care of soul soars away to the Being from whom swept in from the Seventh street road his interests and protects him in his it lately came; because, as we move one fine Monday evening early this

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the ignorance and mismanagement which humanity to early graves.

And of the multitudes that die in

infancy, few there are that do not leave some breaking hearts behind them. Few there are whose last-sickness does not draw forth all the stores of tenderness and agitate the soul with all the deep anxieties of hope and fear of which mother, father, brothers and sisters are capable. The deep paternal tenderness of the heart of David was brought out by the sickness of his child. "David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted and went in and lay all night upon the earth." He refused to rise and eat bread; and so deep was very influence which so humanizes the heart and strengthens and brightens the house of God and worshipped-many It is one of the commonest, most bereaved parents now-a-days less wisely

> Deep, tender, overwhelming is the grief with which the final farewell is uttered to the darling of the flock, as his bright eyes are dimmed forever, as the prattle of his tongue is hushed, his bosom and his baby feet cease from may be lavished; and then, amid the with which the little one was or can be associated! The lock of hair, the photograph, the toys, the dresses, the favourite seat or picture are carefully treasured up: yet a stolen glance at them now and then is all we dare take, they wring our hearts so with a sense of what we

This higher estimate even of the infancy by his own voluntary assumpwere favourite topics of his teaching and illustration. His disciples, not tempt for the outwardly feeble and insignificant, so mistook the new spirit ruption. But Jesus welcomed them to his Redemption, and to promise them,

Yes, that is our comfort in laying the precious relics away in the dust! It is lately dwelt in them; because the freed probably stimulated by the breeze that

feebleness from injustice, and sanitary bereaved and sorrowful to the grave, month. We hear it in the call for THE PRINCIPLE OF REPRESENTATION reformers are tearfully indignant at the late tenant of the clay we bear, ignorant and feeble as it was, in the few send so many of these frail specimens of hours that have passed since its departure, has probably become wiser, stronger, more glorious, more blessed, than the greatest of the living. And sublime and spiritualizing is the hope with which the Christian parent follows him in his thoughts: I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

## NOTES FROM UPPER DELAWARE.

UNDER THE MAPLES, July 22, 1864.

Three years ago yesterday was fought the sad, disgraceful battle of Bull Run; the battle which woke the nation to the desperation and energy of the rebellion in its inception; just as the hot and bloody conflicts of the Wilderness last May convinced us of the fearful energy of its purpose even in its decline. Had the rebellion been grasped at the outset with the vigour and decision which bold, brave men, well acquainted with the Southern spirit, like Gen. Butler, the Rappahannock instead of the Potomac would in all probability have been the rebel line of operations, and the battle of Bull Run perhaps have never age and Fabian policy, followed by that of McClellan, who, but little over thirty, pursued a still more Fabian policy than the sexagenarian general; with incompetence, mismanagement and jealousy in rapid succession after his removal men high in office still disbelieving the stern character and great issues of the conflict—under such auspices the Army of the Potomac lapsed into the third year of its history, before the leader needed in May, 1861, with heart of fire and with will of iron, was found. God the jungles of Africa, the waves of the house is its wealth, its light, its charm, had not given us the Grant of to-day at Nile and of the Ganges, the burial towers its joy. A great Robber has entered it that time; but it is a fact that men in of China, have heard their feeble dying and taken away what other thieves the military service who, at that time, wail, and have testified to the con- cared not for, and what bolts and doors exhibited the determination and the could not secure. He has swept away uncompromising hostility to rebellion men upon their lives. The treatment a treasure of affection; he has made a now so acceptable in Grant and every of infants by the heathen would, by wound which is almost too deep for one else, were not readily discerned, nor mode of accomplishing it. But the itself, fully justify the apostle's accusa- memory to efface. He has left the cold their services made the most of by the captive and the wounded are rightful tion that they are "without natural form, the image, of baby, behind; upon Government. All too slowly did the Go- objects of at least the same attention as affection." Nay, even compared with this, for a few brief hours, our regard vernment grow into sympathy with we bestow upon the inmates of our such men as the lamented Gen. O. M | prisons. We rejoice when we hear of Mitchell, and the more fortunate Gen. Butler, who has been spared to see our lance corps of our army, succouring the rulers gradually rise to a position level wounded of the enemy and reaching with his own. Unwavering steadiness | their hitherto hard and malignant hearts of purpose, uncompromising hostility to by unexpected tenders of kind service. rebellion in every shape; disgust and Our aim in all this war is too broad, abhorrence of it as the highest of crimes; too noble, too humane, to allow us to straightforward policy towards all follow in the wake of our brutal enemies, Northern friends and abettors of rebel- who cannot lay aside the spirit of the lion in any practical shape, beginning at slave-driver from their policy. Washington; a course so plain, so luminous that the craftiest scoundrel would feel it useless for him to calculate upon in his plots,—reader, from my calm seat | the next letter. under the maples, on this day after the inhumanity have not been eradicated one of the prominent distinguishing third anniversary of the shamefullest event in our national history, I ask you or covetous parents and masters. There grows directly out of the teachings of if these are not the qualities we have palpably needed through the whole of to a"Letter from Rev. William Fithian' capitals of Christendom, as the recent Testament. The divine Saviour exalted | this struggle; and if our good President | which appeared in your paper of June does not do well to appoint a day of 30th, I would submit the following facts tion of its feeble estate. Young children fasting and humiliation, if only for the in order to set the matter referred to purpose of confessing our great national as it is. He says, "By the grace of sin of tardiness in reaching, only in this God I am guiltless of offence, and am fourth year of the war, the moral posi- not a member, nor ever was, of Chariton tion we now hold?

Yes! we had to be beaten into every beaten into emancipation; beaten into Presbytery, I find the following minute, and over again into the admission that member of this body." The above acthe rebellion is desperately in earnest; tion was had September 7th, 1861. organized militia for defence at home begins to dawn upon us, and the conwar on our hands, rendering the future existence of the nation problematical, and demanding a universal proof and sometimes catch ourselves sighing for a may judge. Truly yours, single year of Gen. Butler at Washing-

500,000 more. There is the ring of the true metal in that call. At least we shall not fast and humble ourselves next Thursday for that!

Some inklings of this revived energy are manifest not very remote, O reader, from the shade of this maple grove. We are within the sound of the guns of Fort Delaware, where one-fifth of the sixty odd thousand rebel prisoners now in the hands of that generous and hospitable warden, Uncle Sam, are domiciled. No gaunt witnesses of stinted rations; no miserable starving rathunters, and dog meat epicures; no stomachs per force hardened to vermin and corruption; no sad prodigals, fain to fill their bellies with worse swines' food than carob-pods; no candidates for curiosity-seeking photographers, whose pictures are so true that they almost defeat their own end by the horror they excite; none of these will be found by close seeking among the ten or twelve thousand disarmed foes of ours, under the frowning bastions of Fort Delaware. wished and urged, Manassas Junction | Hardships there are there doubtless; would have been seized and fortified by pining for freedom and home; the chafing our three months' volunteers in May; of hot spirits at a twelve-month restraint from guerilla sports, from bushwhacking, from hanging Union men, or from open and murderous contention with the armed representatives of the Governbeen fought. But Gen. Scott's great ment. But many a Union army in the field would count itself happy with the ample accommodations and bountiful and regular rations, the water and the bathing of the rebel prisoners at Fort Delaware.

Of these things we are proud. We are glad that history which must write Libby Prison on one page, will have Fort Delaware to set over against it on the other. This is gospel revenge. If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. We cannot follow the inhuman rebels in their career of spite and personal revenge. True, up to the moment that the foe is disarmed and disabled, we seek nothing less than his death, and we ask for the shortest, completest the Christian Commission, or the ambu-

But we have wandered from our purpose of illustrating the energy of the Government, and can only promise to any hidden weakness to help him out come back to the point of departure in

### REV. WILLIAM FITHIAN.

EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN PRESBYTE RIAN-Rev. and Dear Bro.: In reference Presbytery."

Now this seems very strange. In bold step forward which we have taken: looking over the minutes of Chariton the employment of negroes-our bravest viz: "Rev. William Fithian presented allies—as soldiers; beaten into enlist- a letter of dismission from the Presbyment of a force respectably large for the tery of Iowa City and recommendation work on our hands; nay, beaten over to this Presbytery, and was received a beaten by formidable invasions out of Then at a meeting of Presbytery held our learned ease and peaceable pursuits, August 27th, 1862, I find the following, tion. We trust that this expression of sented a request for dismission," which request, for reasons set forth in the viction that we indeed have a formidable minutes, was not granted. Without ists the most delightful harmony of sengiving the whole history of the case, I timent and feeling. deem the above sufficient to settle the question of jurisdiction. As to whether exhibition of the sincerity of our patriot | the writer of the article referred to is ism, forces itself upon us. Even yet we the man, he verily knows, and others

> A. MARTIN, Stated Clerk of Chariton Pres. July 26th, 1864.

But FEW of our city churches are closed the entire Sabbath.

## IN ECCLESIASTICAL MATTERS.

The Congregationalists in various places are agitating the question of a General Convention to consider the in-Presbyterianism. It looks to the formation of a National Congregational Church, and at least shows how unsatisfactory a condition of comparative isolation, such as prevails among local Congregational the way of the proposed anomalous Convention appear to have been appreciated by the General Association of Connecticut, which at its late meeting passed the following resolutions: Resolved, That while we are thus willing to

co-operate in this movement, yet a convention of pastors and other delegates from three thousand churches on so universal a call, prohibiting any scrutiny of certificates, seems to us unfit for the purpose of a thorough discussion and deliberation upon the subject proposed; also, that the time men-tioned for the Convention is inappropriate... Resolved, That, in the view of this association, a REPRESENTATIVE BODY, selected either by the committees of the general Congrega tional Associations and Conferences in the different States, or called as an ecclesiastical council by the Churches at Chicago, where this proposition originated, to consult and advise not only in regard to extending our ecclesiastical polity, but also in respect to the general interests, duties, and privileges of American Congregationalism, would be far more efficient and influential than the mass meeting proposed; while their conclusions might be submitted to a national convention.

which could be summoned, if deemed advisable, during the next year." The idea of the last resolution, given so conspicuously by the printer whose work we copy, that a Representative Body would be far more efficient and influential than a mass meeting of churches, is fundamental to Presbyterian polity; and we are glad to see our Connecticut neighbors sensible of the supe riority of the principle, and candid enough to recommend it. This is no time to exalt the loose methods of a pure Democracy in church or state. We need better cement in both, than Congregationalism can furnish.

## THE AMERICAN BOARD.

The news from the Missions, as contained in the Herald for August, is generally encouraging-in some instances more cheering than usual. Mr. Perkins, of the Nestorian Mission, reports sual interest in many places on the plains of Oroomaih. The gospel, he says, is more widely proclaimed there than at any former period. He encloses a note from Mr. Labarce who, with Mr. Shedd, was holding a series of protracted meetings in a distant part of the plains, which says: "Over a hundred persons were present last night, at Karajlee, who gave the most fixed and solemn attention. We have had personal conversation with forty-five persons." From Micronesia, Messrs. Sturges and Bingham each report advance in all the elements of Christian im-

The receipts for June are \$35,053.17; for the expired ten months of the finan cial year, \$323,499.32. These figures would have no gloomy shade, but for the circumstance that the expenditures of the Board are on foreign fields, where the loss in exchange carries its fullest severity. As it is, an immediate and earnest effort for replenishing the Treasury must be made, or we shall hear of great suffering at the missions and great embarrassment in the Board. Will not the churches remember that this condi- at Camden, he was arrested early in the mortion of things is real, and that, under God, they are the resource for help?

## ANOTHER SURPRISE.

A few days since, Mr. Samuel T. Bodine, and Mr. T. Wallace called on the Rev. Dr. Helffenstein, Pastor of the Market Square Church of Germantown, and presented to him the sum of \$254.00 as a generous offering from the Congregaregard will cement still more closely the bond uniting pastor and people, between whom, we are happy to say, there ex-

### HAMILTON COLLEGE.

A full account of the Anniversary exercises of this prosperous institution, in which Philadelphia has now so large an investment, will be found in the letter of our Rochester correspondent. It will be seen that our city is complimentedin the distribution of Doctorates, and the plume has fallen on one who will wear it gracefully and worthily.

TERMS By mail, \$2.00 por annum, in adviance. By carrier, 50 cents additional for delivery;

church or locality, or in the city to one address.

By mail, \$1.50 per annum. By carriers. 2.00 To save trouble, cluo 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 POSTAGE.—Five cents quarterly in advance, to be paid by subscribers at the office of de-

MINUTES OF THE ASSEMBLY .-- The Minutes of the General Assembly for 1864, have just been placed on our table. We have not had any opportunity as yet for extended examination, but terests of that body throughout the can say that the first glance gives evicountry. The very suggestion savors of dence of unusual prosperity in the church during the previous year. The number of communicants is 138,074 against 135,894 last year; an increase of 2,180, greater than has been enjoyed for a number of years. The additions bodies, is felt to be. The difficulties in by examination were 5980 against 4744, an increase of 1236. Adult baptisms, 2093 against 1556; infant baptisms, 3692 against 3191. The increase in contributions is still more marked, extending to every item; as, General Assembly \$6614, against \$6263, Home Missions \$174,177, against \$122,407; Foreign Missions \$98,529, against \$80,528; Education \$88,353, against \$49,362; Publication \$76,443, against \$40,569; making a total for all but Congregational purcoses (which are not reported, but will be next year) \$444,116, against \$299. 129 last year.

#### THE NEW FUND.

Mr. EDITOR:-The , favorable notice aken of the "Ministerial Relief Fund," by the American Presbyterian of last week, and subsequently by the daily papers of this city, inspires the hope that ere long this new institution of benevolence will secure all the attention and assistance necessary to its complete success. The present season, however, is unfavorable to congregational action, especially in city churches. some of which are closed, and many of whose pastors and members have left home for their places of summer resort. We need funds and cannot wait the return of our friends before making an effort to obtain them. There are persons seeking relief at our hands for whom no provision has yet been made. The object of this brief article, therefore, is to secure from our friends individually any donations they may send to meet the immediate wants of those who are suffering in the families of disabled and deceased ministers. In one particular case we have an urgent call for assistance, and hope that this appeal for help will not be in vain.

#### CHARLES BROWN, Secretary. 1334 Chestnut St., July 26th, 1864

### WELL DONE.

Among the contributions to the Publication Fund of \$50,000, few better deserve mention than that recently given by St. George's Church, which amounted to over \$602. One individual contributed \$500 of this sum, thus consecrating to noble uses a portion of the wealth which has been flowing into his coffers, under Providence, through the war. We trust that St. George's Church is about taking the place fully warranted by the wealth and intelligence of its members, among our liberal congrega-

#### A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL SOLD INTO SLAVERY.

One of the most shameless outrages which has been recorded for years, was committed recently in the State of Delaware, upon one of the members of the late General Conference of the African M. E. church, held at Philadephia. The following account of the affair is from the New York Tribune:

"The Rev. Thomas W. Kinnard, of the British Methodist Episcopal church of Canada, and a delegate from Canada to the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal church, which this year held its quadrenuial session in Philadelphia, visited his birth-place in Delaware recently. While ning, under one of the laws which still disgrace the statute books of Delaware, prohibiting colored persons from entering it. He was fined \$50 dollars and costs. Not having the money to pay, he was sold, and purchased by a brother of the man that emancipated him some years ago. This man took Mr. Kinnard's due-bill for the amount he paid, and gave \$50 security that Mr. Kinnard would leave the State in five days.

Mr. Kinnard immediately went to Wash-

ington to seek redress, bringing with him a transcript from the record of legal proceeding, duly certified, and copies of the due-bills, kc., also letters to the representative of Delaware in the House

Being a British subject and having provincial papers to show that he was under the Queen's protection, he naturally made the facts in the case known to Lord Lyons, the British minister at Washington, who assured him that satisfaction should be sought.".

Thus a minister of Jesus Christ, born in the United States of America, in honorable standing among the people of God, and a member of the General Conference of a large body of Christlans, cannot re-visit the pla of his birth without being arrested and sold into slavery. And yet there are thousands still in the land who call themselves by the name of Christains, who say that the inhuman system under which such deeds are committed shall be perpetuated. Delaware has covered herself with reproach. Maryland, her sister beside her, has "washed her garments and made them white." Delaware still robes herself in the mantle of her shame.