The American Presbyterian

GENESEE EVANGELIST.

RELIGIOUS AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER IN THE INTEREST OF THE

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DOCTRINE IN THE PULPIT.

"The preacher's chief business," says Vinet, "is instruction." "The attempt," says Dr. J. W. Alexander, "to edify made by sin. Corrupt man dislikes the Church without doctrinal instruction is like the attempt to build a house without foundation or framework." And a recent Methodist authority says: "Christianity has made but little progress in a community in which its doctrines have not been so taught as to be understood and believed. Every preacher therefore should aim to do his full share in the indoctrination of his hearers in all Christian truth."* And a higher authority than either-Paul, writing to Titus-says: A bishop should "be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Undoubtedly the minister who seeks a career of steady usefulness, must make it a leading part of his work to indoctrinate his people. He need not do it these strong doctrines to keep it from a most praiseworthy manner by the formally or avowedly, or by any dis- degenerating into weak sentimentalism; author of the volume before us-"The cernible system or course of sermons; it needs the fresh keen air of these Days that are Past." It embraces the but the purpose to do it should be fixed invigorating truths, to save it from suffoin his mind and should control to a cating amid the artificial odors of in the First Church, Northern Liberties, large extent, his pulpit labours. Selesthetic refinements and godless specurious, important, nourishing truth is what the people need to hear, and will, for the most part, be glad to hear. By it they will be trained to a steady and profitable growth in Christian character, greatest service we can do to the conand will be prepared to receive and science and moral nature of men. The make the most of the special visits of fidelity of the ministry to this part of the Holy Spirit. A style of preaching which, coarsely or delicately, addresses the nerves only of the hearers; which expatiates upon the border-grounds of science and philosophy and the interests of human society and general morality which loses itself in the accessories of the Bible narrative or teaching—in its poetry, its natural history, its topogra- profitable for doctrine, for instruction in phy, its figures of speech, its merely grammatical peculiarities, its "antiquities:" or which wholly exhausts itself in direct efforts upon the character and active lives of the hearers, must fail or | mind's great anchorage. The comfort have but a temporary beneficial result. and profit arising from a full view of church demands recognition, as most ought to vote for." "Such appellations The excitements to which this latter sort | these immovable foundations, and from | luminously from the very hand of God. of preaching leads, are often almost a preaching based broadly upon them, utterly barren of good results, often is not to be told in words. It is like prolific of evil.

We need to preach especially the specific, distinctive doctrines of Christianity. These are never to be sacrificed or thrown into the back ground. while the preacher is searching for novelties. The endless variety of ways in which they may be treated, and the freshness which invests them, in the view of every soul that believingly accepts them, renders such a search unnecessary. The preaching which is not evidently based upon this theology, lacks the true elements of power in preaching; nay, ceases to be preaching; for upon the introduction of these truths and the call for their proclamation to a perishing world, arose the opportunity for the exercise of the preacher's office, and then, and for that end, the office his perceptions, and ripened in his judgwas established. Divorced from the ment by his acquaintance with the grand truths of the Gospel, the pulpit | whole system of truth, will inquire careceases to be; where it was, arises the fully after the characteristics and special lecturer's desk or the shrine of the wants of the age in which he lives. He priest and his idolatrous mass. We honor the pulpit and its Founder, and we increase its efficiency, by making it, are now in danger of being overlooked; above all, the place for the proclamation of the leading, distinctive features of the Gospel. "We believe," says Mr. Barnes, in one of his admirable essays, "that the pulpit is ill-adapted to any other doctrines, and that when these are not the grand theme, the purpose of the pulpit is not reached, and it is shorn of its power. In those great doctrines of Redemption embodied in the Evangeli- of thought, of temperance, of slavery, cal, and eminently in the Calvinistic system, there are more elements of powerful oratory; more to arouse and thrill and awe the soul; more to excite to action; more that may be wrought into efficient eloquence than existed when Philip threatened Greece, when Burke impeached Warren Hastings in the society will move on in strides which he House of Commons, when Cicero arraigned Cataline, or when Patrick Henry the point which it is destined yet to unity, they have agreed to connect with *Kidder's Homiletics, p. 274.

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Presinterian.

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ginia to echo with the notes of liberty." And great were the folly and wrong of avoiding in our teachings what are called the "hard" doctrines of the Gospel. Such are Total Depravity, Divine searched out and understood. The at-Sovereignty, Eternal Punishment, the titude of the Gospel towards them must Utter Helplessness and Ruin of the be fearlessly exhibited. They are the Sinner, shutting him up to the Simple voice of Providence, dictating the Reception by Faith of the Saviour pro-

lyzed. These are the searching remethem, and well he may, for it is to the leading features of his corruption that they oppose themselves. The preacher who dispenses with these doctrines leaves the most effective weapons in his armory to rust; shows, in fact, that he wages the conflict with but half a heart. But does he wish to assail and arouse the conscience of his hearer, it is precisely these massive truths that, like the two-handed sword of the Spirit, he will bring down upon the slumbering delinquent. We must not give heed to the cry raised in our day against these lation. The great and awful lines of justice, holiness and truth in the divine

character must not be obscured, but be

kept boldly before the mind as the

their duty will, without doubt, result in

a more healthful tone of public morals

within the whole circle of their influence.

The preacher who aims at instructing

and thoroughly benefitting his people, will not omit from his ministrations any of the doctrines essential to a complete system of truth. All Scripture truth is ighteousness. Sublime in its unchange ableness, amid all the fluctuations of hu- by this people;* of the Eldership, and man thought and affairs, stands the system of Christian truth. It is the nection with the history of the church. the steady flow of a great river, but slightly affected by the ceaseless changes of the atmosphere. The preacher must beware against being swept away from this comprehensive view of his work, as an instructor, by the transitory and delusive aspects of the times. And yet it cannot be too strongly urged upon him to note faithfully the signs of the times. and to beware of so withdrawing from actual life as to become a mere Christian philosopher, or the professor, so to speak, of a branch of study but indirectly connected with the present. In the long line of inspired prophets and apostles, including the Divine Teacher himself, we have no instance that could be quoted in justification of such a course. But the truly wise preacher, steadied in will ask what doctrines are especially assailed now; what important truths of what doctrine is the age in special need; in what respect does the mode of presenting truth, which was suitable and effective enough in a former age, need amendment now; what special facilities does the age afford for illustrating and enforcing truth? "Great questions," bevelled edges, forming a 12mo. volume cessfully engaged in putting down rebelsaid Mr. Barnes, in 1846, "of liberty, of of 191 pages, and may be had of the lion, savour strongly of disloyalty? At government, of education, of freedom of the right to the Bible, of exclusiveness, of war and peace, of the social organization, of the adaptation of the Christian religion to man, are the points which this age, as such, is looking at and while a man is re-arguing points which have been determined ages ago,

shall never dream of overtaking, towards

first taught the hills and vales of Vir- stances in the lapse of eighteen years, this account of the leading topics of thought in the community may be accepted as almost equally applicable today. Whatever they are, they must be form of our teachings. They are the vided in the Atonement. These are in mold of living circumstances in which fact the nervous centres of the whole our doctrine must be cast afresh. The system; cut these out and all is para- | change in the teaching is but the change of front, the substitution of this or that dies which go to the quick of the wounds arm of the service, the flank movement, to meet the shifting nature of the ground and the various manœuvres of the foe. The force is the same; the principles of its movements are the same; the final object is the same; but it is a force in motion, and not a mere garrison, charged only with the defence of some great fortress.

"THE DAYS THAT ARE PAST."

The instruction, the experience, and views of God's providence, obtained in a thoughtful review of any considerable portion of the history of a church, should doctrines, as the obsolete remnants of a admonish every pastor to labor to perharsh and semi-barbarous system, un- petuate its memorials, and, if possible, suited to the kindly and cultured spirit to add to their number and improve of a more favoured age. The age needs their clearness. This has been done in two semi-centennial sermons preached (Buttonwood Street Church), by the pastor, Rev. Thomas J. Shepherd, on the seventeenth and twenty-fourth of January last; with added matter in the form of foot-notes, and an appendix. It speaks of the Northern Liberties fifty years ago; reviews the memorable and unique, but most successful pastorate of Rev. James Patterson, under whose ministrations the church was organized, and two others formed from its eleven hundred members; of the pastorates of Drs. Carroll, Ely, and the writer; of the early and extraordinary development of activity in the church, in the establishment of Sabbath Schools-no less than twenty-three of which were at various mes and places originated and sustained various other matters of interest in con-

Much, indeed, in the history of this Its revivals, and steady stream of acaccessions, averaging fifty a year for the term of half a century; its extraordinary and long-continued perils of a financial character, more than once bringing it to the verge of extinction, but finally removed during the present pastorate; its succession of able pastors-Patterson. Carroll, Ely, Shepherd—not least of whom is the last; the privilege it enjoys of numbering among its earliest members men whose names, in their green old age, are so fragrant as those of Drs. Tustin and Cox; the recent enlargement of the liberality of the people to external objects, from an annual average of of five hundred dollars to an average of fifteen hundred dollars; the proofs of devoted patriotism it has given, especially in sending more than one hundred of the congregation into the national service, furnish an accumulation of facts too valuable to be trusted to the memories of men, or to chance records, which would soon perish.

Mr. Shepherd has done the work judiciously and faithfully. He has told the story with grace and succinctness, and his publishers, Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston, have most effectively second- few plain questions: ed his efforts by the handsome exterior which they have given to his work. It Sherman & Son, on heavy, tinted paper, House, 1334 Chestnut St., for \$1.50.

*This congregation, under Mr. Patterson, was the pioneer in the mission Sunday School work in this city.

NEW CHURCH,-We learn through the N. Y. Observer, of the organization of a new church in Cairo, Illinois, composed of members whose former connections were O. and N. S. Presby'n and Congregational; but realizing the necessity of reach." Changed as are our circum- the New School branch.

NON-COMMITTAL.

Certain well-known religious journals, especially in New York city, who ness, or the taint of open sympathy would resent any impeachment of their patriotism and humanity with indignation, have recently given utterance to very conservative sentiments, in regard disloyal party to power, justify true to the coming election. No one wonders that the New York Observer should preach "moderation in politics" at this time, or should decline to take sides for the administration. It will be remembered that when Mr. Lincoln issued his threat of emancipation in September, 1862, the Observer turned its back upon him, and has since manifested no special love for him, as committed to the emancipation policy. The Observer in the editorial first referred to, expressly leaves it to the people to decide "which of the two leading parties would be most likely to re-unite the distracted country on the basis of honorable and permanent peace,"-it has no duty as a religious journal in the premises-and the editors promise to "address themselves as individuals to the study of that question," as if it were a doubtful

and complicated one! All this and much more to the same from that quarter; but we confess to an unusual feeling of surprise and grief to find the N. Y. Evangelist treading in the same non-committal path. We refer to the leading editorial of last week's issue, entitled "Party names and Party Spirit." We know that many of the friends of the Evangelist in this section, are astonished and pained at the tone of that article. The Evangelist is regarded as having performed an honorable and effective part in bringing the nation and the administration to their present elevated and Christian policy and now, when the only real question between the parties is, whether we shall recede from this position and make concessions to a pro-slavery rebellion, we are sorely disappointed to find the editors declining the conflict and actually helping to disguise its conditions.

The following passages will convey, we think, a fair idea of the tone of the article:

"Into this contest, as a strife between journal to enter. The Evangelist is not a political newspaper." "We do not assume to say whom Christian men as 'traitors' when applied to a whole party, are unjust, and absurd. The mass of the people at the North, of all parties are truly and honestly devoted to their country." "We have neighbors and friends-men who are as intelligent as we are and who love their country as well-whose views are exland of our fathers hangs on a single election? . . . Is it not just possible that we unconsciously, and from our very anxiety, exaggerate the dangers? . . . We protest against this language and this despair." It believes "that the force of events, more powerful than platforms, will compel whoever is President, to carry on the war till the through a leader of a column and a-half. Every statement of the article may be true, and yet its whole impression is profoundly false, disheartening and chilling to the real friends of the coun-

We do not care to argue the case, but will simply propose to these journals a

At such an unparalleled crisis in the national life, must not the attempt to is printed in large, clear type, by C. distract the public mind by an organized, vigorous campaign against an adand bound in handsome cloth, with ministration, which is honestly and sucpublishers, and at the Presbyterian best, is it not wrong headed, dangerous and factious opposition, which should man in the country? Are not the managers of this political opposition notoriously in sympathy with the rebellious South?

Is it meddling with the tricks of politicians, to uphold the only set of men all available and necessary means, and proposing correspondence, to whom the whose past acts have demonstrated the Moderator responded with fraternal repastor abundant success.

sincerity of their purpose; or to oppose the transfer of power to men on all whose acts rests the curse of lukewarmwith treason?

Does the fact that the country may be saved in spite of the accession of a men in indifference to the success of such a party? Is not this tempting Providence?

Is it not plain that the Chicago democracy are bent on saving slavery, whatever becomes of the Union? Is it not equally plain that Mr. Lincoln and his friends, having long ago resolved on saving the Union whatever became of slavery, soon discovered that the destruction of slavery was necessary to the perpetuation and peace of the Union, and have ever since been wisely and successfully labouring for the accomplishment of this great and necessary reform?

Is it "political" for us to work and pray with might and main, lest this greatest and most beneficent of the revolutions of the nineteenth century should be arrested, and the wheels of human progress blocked, by the accursed machinations of the most abandoned effect is no cause of surprise coming and knavish set of politicians that perhaps the sun of a free country ever shone upon? And is all the honest blood that tingles in our veins, and rushes from our hearts when we come to grapple with these sworn allies of tyranny and darkness, to be chilled into frigid moderation by the caution of conservative journals? Is it a time in these grand historic days, to talk noncommittal; to train one's self, in any capacity, to cold-blooded indifference; or to speak in a way to leave for a moment, the impression that the questions on which the effort is now making to divide the North are not of commanding importance to the friends of our Union, our nationality and of our race everywhere and for all time?

Mews of the Churches.

PRESBYTERY OF HARRISBURG.—At a recent meeting of this Presbytery at Hublersburg, Pa., Mr. J. E. Long, who parties, it is not the province of this had previously been received as a Licentiate from the Third Presbytery of New York, was ordained to the Gospel ministry as an Evangelist. Our correspondent, C. P. W. writes that his previous examinations were very thorough and well sustained, and we have much encouragement to hope that his ministrations in the churches of Hublersburg and Spring Mills, to which he is appointed a stated supply, with the support of the Home Missionary Committee, will be eminently successful. Rev. T. actly opposite to ours." "Can it be H. Robinson, of Harrisburg, preached that the whole future destiny of this the sermon, and Rev. W. Sterling, of Williamsport, gave the charge to the minister. It was a season of more than usual solemnity, and the whole meeting of Presbytery was delightful, on account of the cordiality with which they were received by the people, the earnestness and appropriateness of the preaching and communion service, and the confiding friendship of the members. rebellion is utterly subdued" and that A long and very interesting letter was the Union will stand, whoever is Presi- read from Rev. Wm. Tracy, an absent dent for the next four years;" and so on | member, and for about twenty-five years | adjourned to meet in the First Ward past a missionary at Pasumalie, in Northern India. This will probably be sent to you for publication. The next of October, 1865, at 7 o'clock, P. M. stated meeting was appointed to be held in York, on the second Tuesday in April next, at 7½ o'clock in the evening.

MONTROSE, PA.—The church in this place which recently gave a reluctant consent to the dismissal of Rev. H. A. Riley, after a faithful pastorate of more than a quarter of a century, has recently extended a call to Rev. - Miller. of Connecticut. It is understood that the call will be accepted. Mr. Riley was forced by bodily infirmity to surrender his charge. His labors contain a long record of distinguished usefulness.

SYNOD OF IOWA .- The meeting of this be frowned upon openly by every true body was held in the Westminster church, Newton, commencing September 8th, and opened with a sermon by the last Moderator, Rev. Nelson L. Robinson. Rev. Milton H. Dysart presided over the sessions. Among the proceedings we notice that Rev. James who are fully and fairly committed to D. Mason, of the Old School Synod of that the prospects of the Westminster the utter overthrow of the rebellion by Iowa, was introduced as a commissioner Church are brightening. It has a wide field

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marks. And the following action was had in the matter:

"1. Resolved, That this Synod accept, with great pleasure and entire unanimity, the Christian fellowship thus offered, and shall be happy to reciprocate and continue it by an annual interchange of commissioners, until in the way and in the time which God in his providence may point out, we who are now separate bodies may become one,

both in spirit and in form.
"2. Resolved, That Rev. Henry B. Holmes, principal, and Rev. Samuel Newbury, alternate, be hereby appointed as commissioners, to visit the Synod of Iowa in connection with the Assembly of Newark, and report to them this our action, and also personally to carry our fraternal salutation."

An overture was also adopted on the union of the two General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Darius E. Jones was heard on the operations of the American Bible Society in the State, and his suggestion of township Societies to aid in collections, and distribution of the Bible was recommended.

The object of the Christian Commission was presented by Rev. Shepard Wells, Agent; and the cause was commended to the churches. A Synodical collection was taken on the Sabbath in behalf of this object, as a thank-offering, while public thanksgiving was offered unto God, for the recent victories of the Army and Navy of the United States, in accordance with the Proclamation of the President.

From the Narrative of the State of Religion, we take the following paragraphs:

The past year has not witnessed any large additions to our churches. One revival only is reported. Most of the churches however report a gradual and healthy growth. Nearly all of our ministers have been employed in the appropriate duties of their calling. Sabbath schools have flourished, and the ordinary means of grace have been sustained. Some church debts have been liquidated.

The corner stone of one church has been laid by the Synod in this place; and one other is reported in process of erection. One church has secured a parsonage; and two or three church edifices have been repaired and furnished with instruments of music.

Three new churches have been organized during the year: -a gain, however, which is more than counterbalanced by the reports of a larger number of enfeebled and dying churches. This is inevitable on a new field of the character and extent covered and is no ground of discouragement. Many of our Western churches are necessarily an experiment.

SYNOD OF ONONDAGA.—This body met in Owego, N. Y., Sept. 13th. Rev. G. N. Boardman of Binghamton was elected Moderator, and Revs. W. W. Collins and H. N. Millard, Clerks. The opening sermon was by Rev. Charles Hawley, D. D., showing that it is by uniting the fear of the Lord with the comfort of the Holy Ghost, the largest and best growth of the church is to be attained. Rev. J. B. Richardson presented the cause of the Am. Bible Society, and Rev. T. A. Mills, D. D., that of education. Action was taken with reference to the ministerial Relief Fund; and the cause of Home Missions was specially commended. The erection of new church edifices and parsonages was reported. Auburn Theological Seminary continues to prosper. The church at Owego is to be supplied for a year by a young brother from Auburn Seminary who is held in high esteem. Synod church, Syracuse, N. Y., a month later than at present, on the second Tuesday

REV. H. C. DYE has been engaged as a supply for the First Presbyterian and Congregational church in Gustavus, Ohio, and has entered upon his labors.

PREMIUMS.—The copies of John Huss and of Shedd's History of Christian Doctrine thus far ordered as premiums, have been sent either by mail or express, according to the report of the publishers, and, by this time, should be in the hands of all entitled to receive them. Parties who have biled to receive them will please inform as of the fact.

The Westminster Church, (0. S.) Philadelphia.—The Presbyterian of last week says: The Rev. Dr. Irvine, late of Canada, has commenced the duties of his pastorate in the Westminster Church. Dr. Irvine is an eloquent man, preaching with great ferwency and freedom, and proclaiming the doctrines of the gospel clearly and boldly. We are glad to learn that large congregations are attending upon his ministry, and