

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1865.

No subscriptions or payments received for less than six months. Parties wishing to discontinue, and having failed to give notice until their new year has commenced, though liable for the entire year, will be held for six months only.

THE NEXT UNION PRAYER MEETING of the churches of our denomination in this city, will be held in the South-western Presbyterian church, (Rev. John McLeod's) Twentieth and Fitzwater streets, on next Tuesday evening.

A FRENCH PASTOR FOR PHILADELPHIA.—We see it stated that the French Evangelical Church in this city is about securing the services of Rev. N. Cir, who has spent the last thirteen years as a missionary to the French population in Canada.

PROMPT AND WELL-APPLIED BENEFICENCE.—At the weekly lecture of one of the most recently organized of our city churches, the case of a needy and worthy brother in the ministry, not far from the city, was mentioned by the pastor, and the hope was expressed that one hundred dollars might be furnished by the congregation, to supply his more pressing wants. On the Sabbath following, the pastor announced that he had received and forwarded two hundred dollars, the gift of his people, to the brother in question. This is the spirit which, if carried out, would lead to the establishment of the much-needed SUSTENTATION FUND.

SABBATH-SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—The anniversary exercises of the Sabbath-school of the Mantua 2d church, (Rev. L. Pratt's) took place on Sabbath, the 15th instant. The school, though like the church comparatively an infant enterprise, is in good prosperity, numbering but little less than two hundred scholars, with an active corps of teachers, under the efficient superintendence of Mr. Ray. Rev. Dr. Butler and Rev. J. W. Dulles attended and took part with the pastor in the anniversary exercises, which were highly satisfactory throughout. The singing by the children was very animated and correct. By the way, we rejoice to know that this church enterprise, under the administration of Mr. Pratt and a good eldership, is fast rising in prosperity, and making its influence felt in the neighborhood where it is located.

A DISLOYAL MINISTER IMPRISONED.—Rev. Frederick A. Ross, D. D., whose name is more widely than favorably known in our church, has been talking up rebellion in the reclaimed parts of Tennessee, so much so that Gen. Stedman has found it necessary to place him in prison in Nashville. It will be remembered that Dr. Ross was the first man to proclaim in our General Assembly that the Southern ministry and membership planted themselves on the doctrine that slavery was to be nourished as a social necessity, and a Divine institution of such rank that its breaking up would be an outrage upon God's own arrangements for the social status of his creatures. It was this utterance, persistently maintained, which wrought up the sentiment of the Church to the point of action taken in Cleveland, in 1857, which was followed by the secession of the Southern Synods and the division of the Church.

ANOTHER MINISTER GONE.—One of the strongest theologians in our church—Rev. Dr. Azariah G. Orton—has gone to his rest. He died in Lisle, Broome County, New York, on the 28th ult., at the ripe age of seventy-six years. If we may not speak of him as one of our most distinguished theologians, it is only because his great ministry and the utter absence within him of personal aspirations, circumscribed the knowledge of his real worth. Those who were brought into acquaintance with him, and listened to his discussions and explanations of the doctrines of the Bible, soon felt the presence of a "Master in Israel." His mind was deeply interested in philosophical and scientific investigations, and he was familiar with almost every branch of knowledge which aids in Biblical interpretation or illustration. Dr. Orton was more over an earnest Christian, and one who took great delight in the work of a quiet country parsonate. The New York Observer, from which we glean the above particulars, corroborated by our own personal knowledge of the deceased, gives the following interesting account of his last hours:—

"In his last hours the heavens seemed to be opened to this faithful servant of Christ, and Jesus was unspeakably precious. He had no interest below; his treasure was above. His great desire was 'to be free from sin and present with the Lord.' Throughout his whole life he could never be brought against self-righteousness. His views were well expressed by his favorite hymn: 'Rock of Ages, and by the homely couplet:—

'I'm a poor sinner, with nothing at all; Jesus, my Saviour, is all in all. As dies a wave along the shore, so died this man of God,—peacefully, calmly, trustingly. Full of faith and hope, he fell asleep in Jesus, and is now satisfied with His likeness and with the glory and blessedness of the promised rest.'

FROM OUR CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

We, that is to say, the Corresponding Editor and his faithful steel pen, have been out again upon our travels; and this time, if names indicate anything, we might say that we have been in foreign lands, and yet not very far from home, after all. We passed through Palmyra, and yet saw no ruins; found ourselves in Lyons, and yet met no gay Frenchmen; glided quietly through Savannah, but had no time to pay our respects to the gallant Sherman; visited Rome, and did not even try to look upon the gorgeous tinsel of the Pope's tiara; and almost the next place we came to was Philadelphia, but not the city of brotherly love, and we could not find in it the great editor-in-chief of the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, and so we passed along. What a curious conglomeration of names we have in this part of our State! But as we are abroad, let us see what we can see.

A DAY AT CLINTON. The College is flourishing—classes as full as usual; professors in good health and hard at work. Hamilton has made great advance in the last five years, and is now ready to receive and use well a large increase to its funds. It is a good foundation upon which a very large and noble institution may well be built. In the next five years it ought more than to double its present endowment and its number of students. With good judgment and good management we are sure this may be done.

BOUGHTON SEMINARY. This school for young ladies is also in a very flourishing condition. It has forty-three boarders and about as many day scholars. We learned "from the highest authority" that the rooms for boarding scholars were all full; that but one vacancy is likely to occur at the close of the present term, and that there six applicants for the one place. This indicates a high degree of prosperity, which, in our estimation, is well deserved by the faithful labors of the associate principals, Mr. and Mrs. Gallup.

THE CLINTON CHURCH. This has recently become Presbyterian in form, as for some time it has been Presbyterian in the majority of its members and in the spirit of its administration. The young pastor, Rev. Albert Erdman, who has been settled but a short time, seems to be doing finely in his work, and has evidently won a large place in the confidence and affection of his people. Some of them have recently testified their regard by the presentation to him of a beautiful album.

SABBATH-SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY. It was our happy privilege to attend the anniversary of the Missionary Association of the Sunday-school in Clinton. It was an interesting occasion, and evidently gave great pleasure to a house full of little people, to say nothing of the older ones, who seemed to enjoy it no less. It took the place of the afternoon service, in the body of the church, showing that the anniversary was deemed worthy of a good place. It appeared from the report of the superintendent, Dr. J. C. Gallup, that the school had raised in the last year one hundred and five dollars, to support two native preachers among the mountain Koords, in connection with the Nestorian Mission. One contribution was touching and sacred—"two dollars, for Clintie, from his mother." This is the second time such a contribution has been made, in remembrance of a dear boy who used to love to give to the missionary cause before he went to heaven, about a year and a half ago.

A PRESENTATION. The Superintendent of the Sunday-school at Clinton, Dr. Gallup, was recently made the victim of one of those overwhelming and yet agreeable surprises so common in these days. The teachers and scholars, highly appreciating his faithful services, had prepared a splendid volume, the Gems of British Art, which cost some twenty or twenty-five dollars, and on Sunday noon the pastor begged the privilege of saying a few words. His speech, complimentary and graceful, was to the superintendent, with the presentation of said volume. It was a handsome testimonial of real esteem, gratefully given.

PRESBYTERY OF WATERTOWN. This body attempted to meet in annual session at Adams, on the 10th instant. In consequence of a great storm then prevailing a quorum was not present on the first day, but on the 11th business commenced. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. Calvin Yale. Rev. George D. Baker, the young pastor of the Second church of Watertown, was elected Moderator. Rev. George W. Mackie, of Adams, and Elder George W. Knowlton, of Watertown, were elected Commissioners to the General Assembly. Rev. George W. Mackie was also appointed Commissioner for three years to Auburn Seminary. Special action was taken by this Presbytery, with evident intent to accomplish something, in regard to the Ministerial relief fund. Committees were also appointed, from among the ministers, to visit the vacant churches within the bounds of the Presbytery, and preach to them, and counsel with them, and try to aid them in finding pastors, and keeping up the ordinances of the gospel.

On Thursday morning, by invitation, of Rev. Mr. Houghton, Principal of the Hunkerford Collegiate Institute, the whole

Presbytery visited that school, and participated in the opening exercises. It is an institution well worth visiting, and the members of the Presbytery were evidently much gratified with the evidences of its prosperity. After this, almost the entire forenoon of Thursday was spent by the Presbytery in conference and prayer. It was a delightful meeting. Two hours were spent in this manner, and the time passed so rapidly that they did not realize it until it was gone. I was, we should say, the best part of the meeting, and all were greatly refreshed by it.

THE CHURCHES OF WATERTOWN. The Second church of this place is a decided success. The new house of worship completed since we were here last year, was dedicated but a few weeks since, and already every pew is taken, and the house is well filled from Sabbath to Sabbath. It is a very neat church edifice, of moderate size, built of brick, nicely frescoed in the interior, with lecture room upon the rear.

The preaching services of the Sabbath, both in the First and Second churches of Watertown, are morning and evening. Without conference together, the two pastors, Mr. Porter and Mr. Baker, recently came to the same conclusion; to wit, to omit the preaching on the first Sabbath evening of each month, and substitute, or revive, the too much neglected monthly concert of prayer for the heathen, and it is found to work well.

In another thing, also, the same minds were found to be working in an undesigned coincidence: each pastor had engaged in preaching once a month, on a Sabbath afternoon, a sermon to children. This alternates with the Lord's Supper, which is administered on the afternoon of the Sabbath every other month, and also works exceedingly well. An elderly clergyman was recently asked what changes he should wish to make in his ministry, if he had it to live over again. His reply was, "Care more for the children." Let younger ministers give heed to good counsel.

A LIBERAL CHURCH. The little church in Brasher Falls, with only forty members, (thirty-three females and twelve males,) is a noble example of Christian liberality. Within the year past they have given five hundred and forty-two dollars to the different causes of benevolence, being an average of twelve dollars to each member. The largest contribution given at any one time, save one, has also been but five dollars. The money has been collected generally in small sums, and has been freely given by a thriving little community. Much credit is due to the liberal views of the earnest young pastor, Rev. Mr. Pratt. He is not afraid to urge his people to give freely to every good cause. They take all the better care of him for that very reason.

A MUSICAL CONVENTION IN POTSDAM. A five days' meeting of this sort has recently been held in this place. It was the annual meeting of the Northern New York Musical Association. There were some four hundred active members in attendance, under the training of Professor Emerson, of Boston. As closing exercises two concerts were given, one on Thursday evening and one on Friday evening; both crowded as compactly as they could be, by interested and happy auditors. The convention gave great satisfaction to the active members, and to outside attendants. It seemed to them time well spent in sacred song.

AN INTERESTING LECTURE. In this place we had the pleasure of listening to a lecture, of decided interest and value, from the lips of Hon. CALVIN T. HULBURD, member of Congress from this district. Being in the neighborhood for a few days, he took his place in the citizens' course. The subject of the lecture was Lady Hester Stanhope, and the speaker succeeded in giving us a very vivid and interesting picture of the strange and eccentric career of that remarkable woman; following her through the gay halls of aristocratic society in England, presenting her troubles and trials, her caprices and fantasies, until she left her native land in disgust.

The lecturer then followed her in her self-exile in the East, her visit to Jerusalem, to Damascus, to Palmyra of the desert, and to her strange home where at last she died, all alone, upon Mount Lebanon. It was a lecture of real merit, and gave decided satisfaction.

AN OUTRAGE. We learned in Rome, from very good authority, that a strolling company of "old folks" singers, not content with giving a concert in that place on Saturday evening, proposed also to give a sacred concert on Sunday evening. On Sunday morning it was found that their handbills were scattered all through the Presbyterian Church, advertising the concert of the evening.

When the evening came, the old folks appeared, as we are told, in their usual and ridiculous costume of the golden time, and went through with their exercises, not very unlike the other times, for which a fee was also charged at the door. To our minds this looks very much like breaking God's holy day; and we do not see what claim such "old folks" have upon the good will or patronage of those people who regard the Sabbath as sacred to religious purposes.

POTSDAM, January 21, 1864.

News of the Churches.

LANSING, MICHIGAN.—Our Church at this important point, the capital of Michigan, recently vacated by the transfer of Rev. O. S. Armstrong to a chaplaincy in the army, has secured the services of Rev. J. E. Weed, late of Toledo, as his successor.

MICHIGAN.—We learn, with satisfaction, that the united churches of Dover and Clayton, Michigan, have ministered to the temporal comfort of their pastor, Rev. H. W. Shaw, by a donation of one hundred and twenty-seven dollars—money and its equivalents.

THE BEST WAY.—The congregation of Rev. Ephraim Whitaker, in Southold, Long Island, have treated their pastor to the New Year's gift of a permanent advance of fifty per cent upon his salary, which nearly doubles the sum stipulated at the time of his settlement, fourteen years since.

WABASH, INDIANA.—We learn, through the Christian Herald, that eleven were added to the First Presbyterian church in this place, at its last communion. The Sabbath-school, the prayer meeting, and the congregation are all increasing in numbers. A New Year's gift of one hundred dollars, with the compliments of the ladies of the congregation, was handed to the pastor, Rev. W. J. Essick.

AN ENLARGEMENT.—The South Street Church, Morristown, New Jersey, has found the enlargement of its church edifice a necessity for the accommodation of a growing congregation. The supply of seats has become wholly insufficient for the demand. The work is to be undertaken at once, about six thousand dollars having been raised to meet the expense. Rev. Arthur Mitchell is the pastor.

CHURCH TO BE DEDICATED.—The neat and convenient edifice, recently erected by the First Presbyterian Church, in Springfield, Montgomery county, of which Rev. A. J. Snyder is pastor, is to be dedicated on next Sabbath. The pastor expects the assistance of Revs. Messrs. R. Adair and J. Y. Mitchell on the occasion, so interesting to the young and improving enterprise. The church is located in Flourtown, a short distance above Chestnut Hill.

DR. COX IN WASHINGTON.—The venerable Dr. S. H. Cox, whose bow abides in strength, is supplying the First Church in Washington, (late Dr. Sunderland's,) for a few weeks. A cotemporary says that his reputation draws full houses. There was considerable anxiety to hear, his views in reference to war and slavery, which, as they came out incidentally, were found to be in full sympathy with the Government on the subject of emancipation, as well as the prosecution of the war to the perfect restoration and pacification of the Union.

ON THE ADVANCE.—The Second Presbyterian Church in Orange, New Jersey, (Rev. James H. Taylor, pastor,) has advanced nobly in the work of outside benevolence, contributing, during the last year, no less than three thousand nine hundred dollars to objects foreign to its own expenses. This is an increase of nearly three hundred per cent over the past. We are happy also to record a corresponding liberality toward the pastor, giving him, free of all traveling expenses, a summer vacation of two months, and a New Year's present of a sleigh and bells, and a cash gift of five hundred dollars.

DEDICATION.—In Tuscola, Illinois, we have a small church of thirty members, two-thirds of whom are females, but large in heart and good works. They have just finished a beautiful house of worship which will seat three hundred and fifty persons, at a cost of about three thousand dollars. It was solemnly dedicated to its holy use on Sabbath the 15th inst. The sermon—a rich and heartsome discourse—was preached by Rev. A. L. Brooks, of Chicago, to an audience, which filled up all the sitting and standing room of the house. At the close of the service a resolute attack was made upon an ugly debt of one thousand dollars remaining on the property, six hundred and fifty dollars of which was promptly cast among the "things behind."

KINGSTON, IND.—Rev. A. Parker, just returned from assisting Rev. A. T. Rankin, pastor, in a series of meetings in the Sand Creek Church, furnishes the Christian Herald, with the following interesting account: "There had been a number of accessions to the church some weeks ago, and the week of prayer was looked forward to by the pastor and church with hopeful feelings. They have not been disappointed. The congregations were attentive and solemn from the first; and the solemnity increased to the close of the meetings. The Spirit was evidently at work. Eight were added to the church—five on profession of their faith, and three by letter. Others have expressed an interest, and it is hoped many more will be gathered into the fold. The most solemn meeting of the series was the closing one on Tuesday night; when the members of the church who were present, and many non-professors, rose and solemnly pledged themselves before God, that they would seek to cherish the revival influences, and pray for the deepening and extension of the work. It was a scene to be remembered. The congregation was dismissed, but all seemed to feel 'It is good for us to be here,' and sitting down they sang, 'Say, brethren, will you meet us?' and then were

dismissed again. It is hoped that many there resolved 'By the grace of God we'll meet you.'"

MINERAL POINT, WIS.—Appended to a business note, from Rev. E. B. Miner, pastor at Mineral Point, is the following refreshing paragraph:—"The Lord is with us. Quite a number hope they have found the blessed Jesus, and the inquiry meetings are full. Last evening (the 10th inst.,) there were about sixty in the lecture room below, after sermon—some in the greatest distress of mind."

Religious Intelligence.

For additional Religious Intelligence see page 31, of the inside.

PRESBYTERIAN. The United Presbyterian Church is experiencing much difficulty in its effort to amend the psalmody in use—the old Rouse's version to which, as the psalmody of their fathers, the Scotch branches of the Presbyterian Church cling with peculiar tenacity. The General Assembly of the U. P. Church have recently secured a revision, and sent it down to the Presbyteries for concurrence. The following action of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, carried by a vote of 13 to 3, indicates little prospect of the proposed change:—

Resolved, That the Presbytery are not prepared to adopt the version as thus amended, but desire the present version to be retained as it is, except the slight verbal alterations which any judicious publisher might make, until a new and more perfect and varied version is prepared and furnished to the Church, when both versions can be bound up in one book, and allowed to be used."

REVIVAL.—The Presbyterian Banner reports that the church at Sharpsburg, Presbytery of Allegheny City, is enjoying a delightful revival of religion. The services which began during the week of prayer are still continued, with very encouraging results. Quite a number have already united with the church, and the number of inquirers is increasing. A good degree of religious interest prevails throughout that entire community.

TENNESSEE.—The same paper says that Rev. R. R. Moore has resigned the charge of the church at Shelby, Ohio, to accept a call from the church at Shelbyville, Tenn. The church is in connection with the Presbytery of Nashville, and comprises a large number of people who were always warm in their attachment to the Union. Their former pastor, Rev. Mr. Allen, now of the Second church, Nashville, was an unconditional Union man. As the rebellion is subdued there will be an earnest call from many Presbyterian churches in the South for pastors from the North. The Southern ministers who went into the rebellion and encouraged their people to do so, will find but little favor, even in their former fields of labor.

THE ASSEMBLY'S CATECHISM IN A SABBATH-SCHOOL.—At the late anniversary of the Sabbath-school in Glendale, Ohio, Bibles were given to eighteen of the pupils for having recited perfectly the Shorter Catechism during the year 1864. This experiment has been a success in this school. This year the number receiving Bibles has been larger than either of the two previous years. There are now nearly fifty of the pupils of the school that have been thus rewarded, and the proposition has been made to continue the offer for 1865. The Cincinnati Presbyterian says, in relation to what has been done:—

"If our congregations, by the Sabbath-school, in connection with pastoral and parental instruction, could all have the same success which is being attained in the church of Glendale, the next generation of Presbyterians would be greatly in advance of the present in the knowledge of the Bible and sound theology. More of our youth would be converted, and the converted would be more intelligent, influential, and useful laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. During the year 1864 the Glendale church enjoyed a precious revival of religion, and about two-thirds of the persons received to communion were from the Sabbath-school. The instruction received in the Sabbath-school, we doubt not, had much to do in bringing them into the church, and its influence in appreciating their future usefulness in the church, we are confident, will be very great."

PRESBYTERIANISM IN BOSTON.—The clerk of the Presbytery of Boston, (United Presbyterian branch), reporting to Christian Instructor the proceedings preliminary to the installation of Rev. George M. Hall in east Boston, appends the following statement:—"The Presbyterians resident in this city have now ample means for growth in grace, having all churches organized, four of these having new settled pastors, viz. one Reformed Presbyterian (Old Side) two of the Old School branch of the Presbyterian church, and three of the U. P. Church. Nineteen years ago the name Presbyterian was unknown in this city. Toil and self-denial have been required to preserve this issue in an ecclesiastical atmosphere most ungenial to its existence, and, under the blessing of God, they have so far succeeded."

BAPTIST.

GOOD SIGNS.—Several interesting incidents occurred at the regular weekly prayer meeting of the Charles street church, Boston, last Friday evening. A gentleman whose home is out of the city, although his business office is in it, (a stranger to most that were present except the pastor,) arose and addressed the meeting in a touching and earnest manner. He had been awakened to a sense of need and a personal interest in the subject of religion within a few months past. In this state of mind he came to the Charles street church a few weeks ago, and was greatly disappointed to learn that the pastor was absent on an exchange of pulpit services. But the result was good. "If," said he, "Dr. E., who was in the pulpit that afternoon, had known all that was in my mind and heart, he could not have more thoroughly adapted his sermon to my case." This gentleman seemed truly happy, and recently, on new year's day, in company with his wife, joined the Baptist church near his residence. After this interesting address, a young man arose and expressed his hope in Christ. At the close of a previous meeting he had remained to converse with the pastor, and had offered his first vocal prayer while kneeling with him where "none other but God could hear." Special prayer was offered for a sick man in the neighborhood, who, daily drawing near the grave, has begun to rejoice in Christ as his own Saviour. Are not incidents like these adapted to encourage hope for the manifestation of the Divine Spirit?—Watchman and Reflector.

SURGEON.—This celebrated preacher has renounced the ministerial title of Reverend. He wishes to be addressed without any title other than his own name. He has announced his intention to publish a new monthly magazine with this odd title:—"The Sword and the Trowel; or Record of Combat with Sin and Labor for the Lord."

EPISCOPAL.

DEATH OF BISHOP BROWNELL.—The venerated presiding Bishop breathed his last at

his residence, in Hartford, on Friday morning, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. He was a man greatly beloved—gentle and amiable, and endowed with beautifully harmonized gifts of mind and heart, all elevated and beautified by the peace-giving grace of God. His last years have been marked by great physical infirmity, but by tranquility and happiness as well.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

THE POPE'S LAST BULL.—Pius IX. has just started the civilized world with a new manifesto, addressed to all concerned, but especially to the Priesthood of his church. It comes very opportunely for the use of the tribe of non-catholics of our own country, who maintain that the Roman Church can liberalize itself with the times. In no previous age has the Papacy made a broader claim of control over the religion of the world, or more fully insisted upon the duty of civil rulers to inflict the penalties of the law upon the violators of the Romish religion, than in those extracts from this new bull, which follow:—

"The cause of the Catholic Church, the safety of the souls which have been confided to us, and the well-being of human society itself, absolutely demand that we should again exercise our pastoral solicitude to destroy new opinions which spring out of these same errors as from so many sources. These false and perverse opinions are the more detestable, as they especially tend to shackle and turn aside the salutary force that the Catholic Church, by the example of her divine author and his order, ought freely to exercise until the end of time, not only in regard to each individual man, but with regard to nations, peoples, and their rulers, and to destroy that agreement and concord between the priesthood and the government which have always existed for the happiness and security of religious and civil society. For, as you are aware, venerable brethren, there are a great number of men in the present day who, applying to civil society the impious and absurd principle of naturalism, as it is called, dare to teach 'that the perfect right of public society and civil progress absolutely require a condition of human society constituted and governed without regard to all considerations of religion, as if it had no existence, or at least, without making any distinction between true religion and heresy.' And, contrary to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, of the church, and of the fathers, they do not hesitate to affirm 'that the best condition of society is that in which the power of the law upon violators of the Catholic religion, unless required by considerations of public safety.' Actuated by an idea of social government so absolutely false, they do not hesitate further to propagate this erroneous opinion, very hurtful to the safety of the Catholic Church and of souls, and termed delirium by our predecessor, Gregory XVI., of excellent memory, viz.: 'Liberty of conscience and of worship is the right of every man—a right which ought to be proclaimed and established by law in every well-constituted State; and that citizens are entitled to make known and declare, with a liberty which neither the ecclesiastical nor the civil authority can limit, their convictions, of whatever kind, either by word of mouth, or through the press, or by other means.' But in making those rash assertions they do not reflect, they do not consider, that they preach the liberty of perdition (St. Augustine, Epistle 105, al. 166.) and that 'if it is always free to human conviction to discuss, men will never be wanting who dare to struggle against the truth, and to rely upon the loquacity of human wisdom, when we know by the example of our Lord Jesus Christ how faithful and Christian sagacity ought to avoid this very culpable vanity.' (St. Leon, Epistle 164, al. 133, s. 2, Bell. ed.)

"And do not omit to teach 'that the royal power has been established not only to exercise the government of the world, but above all for the protection of the Church, (St. Leo, Epistle 156, al. 125,) and that there is nothing more profitable and glorious for the sovereigns of states and kings, than to leave the Catholic Church to exercise its laws, and not to permit any to attack its liberty; as our most wise and courageous predecessor, St. Felix, wrote to the Emperor Zenon. It is certain that it is advantageous for the sovereigns, when the cause of God is in question, to submit their royal will, according to the established rules, to the priests of Jesus Christ, and not to impose their will upon them.' (Pius VII. Epist. Encycl. Diu satis, May 15, 1800.)"

THE ARMY.

INTERESTING DEDICATION.—The Press correspondent, writing from City Point, January 16, says:—"The fine new chapel of the Christian Commission was dedicated last evening. The inside of the building was neatly decorated with evergreens, in honor of the occasion, and at the appointed time was filled with blue uniforms and a sprinkling here and there of civilian suits. The meeting was graced by the presence of several ladies, who are attached to the hospitals in the vicinity, and an amateur choir was improvised, which added to the solemnity of the devotions the charm of music. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by the Rev. Edward Hawes, of Philadelphia."

ITEMS.

The Bishop of Treviso, Venetia, has published a pastoral letter, strictly forbidding Roman Catholics to attend the funerals of Jews.—Rev. Dr. Goodwin, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected to the chair of Systematic Divinity in the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in this city.—The Christian Commission has more than raised the million dollars which it asked for at the commencement of the last year. In proportion to the openings for its work, two millions are as much needed the present year, as one million the last.—The Christian Register, in an article entitled "The Contribution Box," in speaking of a certain class of churches who do nothing for the spread of their faith beyond their own bounds, says a parish, adds, "Their prayer, if not expressed in words, is in deeds after this fashion:—'God bless us, and our town, and church; and may the rest of the world look out for itself.'"—Mrs. Winslow, wife of the missionary whose decease at the Cape of Good Hope has recently been recorded, has arrived in this country.—The San Francisco Pacific says that the congregations in the church of Rev. Mr. Martin, of Virginia City, (late of Woodbridge, New Jersey,) continue full, the prayer meetings are well attended, and more pews are rented than ever before.—There is a considerable religious interest at Oberlin, Ohio, and the venerable Mr. Finney is said to be preaching with more than usual power. Fifty-two students united with the church at its last communion.—A State Convention has recently been held in Sacramento, California to mature a plan and organize a society for promoting a better observance of the Sabbath.—The American Missionary Association has sent Rev. S. W. Magill to Savannah, to look after the wants of the slaves freed by Sherman's march. He is also to furnish information respecting the loyal whites.—The Emperor Maximilian has declared Roman Catholicism to be the State religion of Mexico; but has announced his intention to give full and free toleration to religious opinion. Does this mean toleration to the expression of religious opinion?