

METHODIST.

BACK IN THE OLD FOLD.—A Louisville writer for the N. Y. Methodist says:—Rev. B. Parsons, D.D., the most prominent divine of the M. E. Church, South, has just withdrawn himself from that body in order to join the parent M. E. Church. Political or sectarian influence has been the immediate cause of his departure. His patriotic address on Thanksgiving Day was the climax—the head and front of his offending. A writer in a Louisville paper—a Methodist—rejoices at the step the Doctor has taken, and promises that if he will consent to preach in this city, a large congregation can be obtained to wait upon his ministry. The same writer claims to know many Methodists here who are desirous of becoming members of the old church of their fathers, from which they were detached by mistaken men. He insists upon their anxiety to return, and their determination "no longer to submit to the jurisdiction of bishops and presiding elders who are now and have been in rebellion against their government." A truly loyal church is demanded, and the Doctor is pressed to take the matter in hand. His determination, however, is to connect himself with one of the New Albany (Ind.) churches, and await the moving of events.

The unconditional Union men in the different charges of the city feel pressed to the above measure, and this circumstance, it is believed, will lead to an extensive movement back to the old fold. Indeed, as the membership relax their hold on slavery, and shall lay hold on Christ, there will be nothing to divide his dear children, and all will again be one in Christ Jesus, to the glory of the Father.

REVIVALS.—In the Methodist church we have reports of revivals in many places, chiefly in the West. Among them are New Albany, Indiana; La Crosse, Ohio; King, Indiana; Moscow and Nevada, Ohio; Bloomfield, Indiana; Patoka, Indiana; Crestline and Newark, Ohio. Several places in Illinois and Iowa are also mentioned as sharing in the gracious visitation. We also notice that some of the New York churches were blessed in connection with the week of prayer.

REVIVAL IN SMYRNA, DEL.—About sixty have recently been added to the membership of the Methodist Church in Smyrna, Del.—the fruits of a protracted meeting.

FOREIGN.

MISSIONS OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.—From the Missionary Herald for February we glean the following particulars:—Sandwich Islands.—In October two new Associations were organized in Hawaii, out of churches and ministers previously connected with the Hawaiian Evangelical Association. Twenty-four churches were organized out of the large unevangelized churches which have been in existence during almost the entire history of Christianity on the island. Four preachers were licensed and eight were ordained and installed over the churches. Five natives were thus for the first time set apart for the sacred office. The place where the gospel was first preached on the islands had the first Hawaiian pastor. Dr. Gulick, Secretary of the Hawaiian Board, was prominent in these movements, which are of the greatest importance to the prosperity of the churches and the progress of the cause. It is full time to meet the extraordinary Puseyite aggressions with a thoroughly organized Protestant church. We note, as quite singular in the proceedings, that Dr. Gulick performed several of the ordinations alone. The foreign residents at Hilo have contributed \$346 50 to the Board. The trustees of the Oahu College have elected Prof. W. D. Alexander as President of that institution. Four "Sisters of Mercy," attached to the "Reformed Catholic" mission, have arrived at the islands from England. The American ladies at Honolulu were spoken of, Nov. 8, as busy getting up a fair to aid the Christian Commission, hoping to realize fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars. A missionary writes:—"Intemperance and licentiousness are sweeping over the whole extent of our islands like a flood. The whole weight and influence of the king and most of the chiefs, the Government, and the two branches of the so-called Holy Catholic Church, is to drown the remnant of this nation in these sins of iniquity. On the first Sabbath in October, thirteen persons were received to the second church at Honolulu, on profession, and several backsliders were restored."

China.—Mr. Blodgett writes from Peking, Aug. 8:—"The great rebellion in China is at an end. The Anglo-Chinese army, under Major Gordon, advanced from Shanghai by an inland route, capturing the cities of Kw'un Shan, Suchuan, and Chang-chau, at which place Major Gordon retired, leaving Nanking to be captured—an easy prey—by the Imperialist army. The city fell on the 19th of July. Our prospects, as to continuance and permanence of labor in this city, have never been more cheering. Daily the Word is preached in seven or eight open-air meetings. In our mission we propose to open two day schools, with funds furnished by friends for that purpose. I hope also to open another chapel before long."

Nestorians.—Rev. Dr. Perkins, in a letter dated October 25, gives the following summary of results in the Seminary:—"The number of graduates since Mr. Stoddard took charge of it, in 1844, has been about eighty. Of these three or four only were hopelessly pious when they entered the school, while only four have left it who were not professors of religion. Sixty-two are now engaged as preachers and pastors, a part of them also teaching; and eleven others teach school in winter, and are helpers in the work of the Lord as they have opportunity."

Syria.—Hasbena Church, scattered and diminished by the terrible events of 1860; when the city was the scene of one of the most awful massacres of the Druze rebellion, is lifting its head feebly from the waste and desolation. In November the church was reorganized with eleven members, who celebrated the Lord's Supper, first renewing, publicly and formally, the covenant which they had individually assumed on entering the church. This they did standing, in the presence of the congregation, and then sealed their vows with the emblems of the new covenant. It was a cheering and hopeful sight, contrasting most happily with the desolation that stared on them from blackened walls and heaps of ruin. All announcements.

Zulu.—Mr. Lindly wrote from Naanda, September 30, expressing a wish that he could attend another missionary convention in the United States, and make a new speech, which he had in mind, and remarks:—"You would think it more encouraging than anything you have yet heard from South Africa. Heathenism is losing its reputation among the heathen themselves. We are wondering, almost every day, at the changes we see in them. These are all for the better. Some of them are very significant, and if simply and truthfully described, would go much deeper than the visible smile the description might create. We hope that several, at one station, have recently been born again. Some of them, children of church members, are not more than twelve years of age; others are adults. We never had more encouragement, and were never happier in our lives."

Finances of the Board.—In order to raise the required \$600,000, estimated to be necessary with gold at 200—it has been more than that, as all know, ever since the meeting of the Board—\$50,000 a month is necessary, but for the first four months ending December 31st, they have been only \$27,106 per month.

or, in all, \$108,424. This sum, small as it is, exceeds the amount received during the same time last year by \$12,814; but for the whole year the excess needed will be near \$70,000, without any advance upon the estimated average cost of gold. Friends of the cause, therefore, will perceive that, to say the least, the present is no time to shrink from vigilant and earnest effort.

OTHER SOCIETIES.—The London Missionary Society reports the income of 1863-4 at £81,073. Also 227 churches and 26,814 members. Its missions in Polynesia are of a highly encouraging character. The most formidable obstructions to the progress of Christianity in the Islands of the Pacific have been the deadly wrongs inflicted upon the defenceless people by white men bearing the Christian name. Vessels, well armed and supplied with all appliances for success, were sent out from the ports of Peru, to capture, by fraud or by force, the natives of various Polynesian groups, and convey them as slaves to labor and to die in the mines of that country. These vessels were fitted out by a well-known mercantile house in Lima, and partly with British capital; and such was the success of their inhuman enterprise, that upwards of two thousand victims were torn from their homes, and, if they survived the cruelties of the voyage, were doomed to the aggravated horrors of slavery. Several hundreds of the sufferers were natives of the Porhry Islands, and the Union group, and others of Niue, or Savage Island. Into all these groups the Gospel has been introduced by the native evangelists of our society; and, so signally had the Divine blessing been vouchsafed to their humble labors, that thousands of the barbarous people had been turned from idols to serve the living God, and to enjoy the peace and happiness which redeeming mercy never fails to bring.

The English Church Missionary Society makes the following cheering report of its former field in Sierra Leone, now for three years in a position of self-dependence:—"The voluntary contributions of the people have supplied the stipends of nine native clergymen, at a higher rate than the Society had paid; each of the congregations has contributed largely to the repairs of the churches; several have commenced the erection of new stone buildings instead of the wooden churches in which they have been accustomed to worship. In addition to these local objects, the subscriptions to Bible and Missionary Societies have risen to a higher amount than in any previous years. All these contributions are raised, not by large donations from a few prosperous traders, but by frequent small donations of nearly every family in the colony. The habit was happily introduced, with the first introduction of Christianity, of a weekly payment from every adult Christian convert; and every Christian family now freely gives a penny a week towards the Church Fund, in addition to the support of schools, and of Bible and Missionary Societies.

For more intelligence, suitable to the monthly concert, see Religious World Abroad, page 39, inside.

PREMIUMS FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

Our list of new names is receiving constant accessions. In some places the numbers are doubled and even trebled. Wherever pastors take a personal interest in the work, the results are in the highest degree encouraging. The Synod's list now numbers about THREE HUNDRED, leaving two hundred names yet to be procured. May we not look to those brethren and church sessions in the Synod who have, as yet, done little or nothing, to fill the deficiency? We print again our offers of premiums for new subscribers. Ministers and Home Missionaries who, from lack of means, find it difficult to procure important recent theological books, should take advantage of these offers, as many already have done, to enrich their libraries, benefit their people, and enlarge the circulation of the paper.

CASH PREMIUMS.—For one subscriber, paying full rates in advance, seventy-five cents; for four subscribers, paying in the same manner, \$5.00, for more at the same rate. For a club of ten, paying club rates, in advance, \$7.50.

RETAIN THE PREMIUMS AND REMIT US THE BALANCE.—VALUABLE BOOKS.—For four new names, paying at full rates in advance, we offer the choice of JOHN HUSS AND HIS TIMES, 2 vols. 8vo., SHEDD'S HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE, 2 vols., 8 vo. Of these books, we have sent away many copies to all parts of the field as far west as Minnesota. Of Shedd's History, but a few copies are now remaining. To this list we have added two recent publications of great importance; viz.—

LANGER'S GREAT HOMILETICAL COMMENTARY, a perfect library in itself, and the best aid in Scriptural sermoneizing anywhere to be found. It is one large 8vo. vol., containing an immense amount of matter. Also, the Publication Committee's last valuable work—

GILLET'S HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIANISM, the only history of the Presbyterian Church in this country extant. Should be in every minister's library.

Either of these works will be sent by mail post-paid, on the receipt of FOUR NEW NAMES, with the pay at full rates, in advance.

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CHILDREN OF THE BATTLE-FIELD.—This elegantly-illustrated piece of music, the words of which were first published as a prize poem in the American Presbyterian, and which has been sung with great applause, especially in Western New York, will be sent, post-paid, for a single subscriber, paying in advance.

UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION.

THE TWO COMMISSIONS—COMPARATIVE ECONOMY.

We invite attention to the article in the present number, on "Paid and Unpaid Agents." It is worthy of being read and considered, and as it suggests a few thoughts, we ask attention to them, as follows:—"Who pays the Agents?" The answer is, the people. They may contribute their money to either of both of the Commissions, or they may pay their agents for doing the work of the Commissions, directly from their own hands. The fact is, that the Sanitary Commission pays its agents from its own treasury, that treasury being supplied by the people. The Christian Commission does the same with its permanent delegates in the field, their treasury being supplied from the same bountiful source. But there is a class of delegates who go to the front as volunteers, meaning, by this term, gratuitous laborers, upon whose claim to voluntary service much stress is laid, as an argument in favor of the economy of the Christian Commission. Let us examine this subject, and see what the system of a voluntary agency is more expensive than the compensated agency.

The Sanitary Commission pays for its relief work in the field forty-five dollars per month, to each agent, in addition to his subsistence. The permanent Christian Commission delegates receive no less, but we believe, more than this sum; fifty dollars having been stated as their salary per month. The small difference of five dollars per month need not be thought of in this comparison, beyond the mere statement. The salary of all relief agents, in both Commissions, is meagre enough to satisfy the most careful and even parsimonious spirit. The work of such men, who live amid the exposures and dangers of the front to do good to our suffering soldiers, cannot be estimated by dollars and cents, and the pityance given them ought never to be complained of.

But we desire to meet the question of volunteer service upon its real merits. Ministers of religion are usually selected by the Christian Commission for this service, and each of these pastors is supposed to be receiving a salary, which may vary from five hundred to five thousand dollars per year: we will estimate the average, however, at the low mark of eight hundred dollars per year for pastoral service at home. Taking this average to be fair, when these parties volunteer their services to the soldiers for a month, they are in receipt from their congregations of sixty-five dollars for that month's pastoral service, in addition to subsistence and traveling expenses from the Commission. They are thus the gainers individually, for the time being, by the two latter items being added to their salary, while the cost of supplying their places during their absence must also be borne by the people at home. Now add the cost of subsistence and transportation. A delegate may go from Maine or Minnesota, as from any part of the country. He may go to Washington or Annapolis only; or he may go to New Orleans or Texas; but, until he reaches a base of supplies, either at the West or East, he is at the expense of transportation by steamboat or railway; and though a portion of his fare may be generously commuted by the companies transporting him, it will not be unjust to allow forty-five dollars for his average cost to and from the front. It thus costs one hundred dollars a month to pay the volunteer agents who go to the field for temporary and inexperienced service. Take the two or three thousand delegates who have gone to the field as temporary volunteers for the Christian Commission, and count their cost to the charity of the country at one hundred dollars each, and we have the volunteer system, requiring two or three hundred thousand dollars to pay its delegates.

Meanwhile the permanent delegates are moving on in the daily track of duty, hard, exposing, dangerous duty, at the low figure of forty-five and fifty dollars per month; becoming inured to hardships, accustomed to labor, skilled by experience, known to officers and men, and reaping rich harvests from their constant seed-sowing. It is not assumed that this vast expense is borne by the Commission directly, but by the people, and the very people who find fault with the expensiveness of paying agents to go to the front—the people who will oppose the Sanitary Commission because it pays its hard-working, constant agents forty-five dollars per month, while the Christian Commission pays its permanent agents fifty—these very people will pay double the sum to volunteers, and complain of others having their small stipend of forty-five dollars.

The system would be a gratuity—a most generous and noble gratuity, if the cost of this voluntary agency were to be borne by the people. If the pastor going as a delegate would bestow his monthly salary upon the aid society of the congregation or village from which he goes, and allow the service to be deemed an offering for the soldier, it would then be entitled to the claim of voluntary service; but as it is, it cannot be claimed as gratuitous. We commend the system as a successful one for securing the sympathy of a very worthy class, and for committing their influence in behalf of the Commission which obtains their service, but when it is presented to the public as an economical system, in comparison with that which trains and keeps its agents, and pays an acknowledged and standard sum, we must protest against it, and ask the people not to misjudge in the premises.

Again, when certain churches agree to employ and pay agents one hundred dollars each per month, and send them away as delegates of the Christian Commission, we assert that they are not to be ranked as volunteers, generously giving their services to the Commission. They are paid.

The war is the people's war; the army is constituted of the people; the Commissions were originated and are sustained by the people. The people may do as they will, and they are prepared to believe the following simple example in arithmetic, and decide for which they pay the most money. Sanitary Commission's work for six months at any given point..... \$640 Two permanent agents each at \$45 per month..... 90 Transportation to and from the front at \$45 each..... 90 Christian Commission's work for six months at any given point by one permanent agent, and six volunteer delegates who remain but one month each, and whose term of service is equal to that of a second permanent agent..... \$630 One permanent agent at \$50 per month..... 300 Transportation..... 30

Six volunteer delegates, one month each, at a cost to their congregations of \$55 per month..... 330 Transportation at \$45..... 270 One permanent agent..... 345 Each, time of service equal to a second permanent agent..... 660 \$1005 Total expenses of Christian Commission policy to charity of the country for six months..... \$1005 Total expense of Sanitary Commission policy for same length of time..... 630 Economy of San. Commission's policy in six mos. \$375 Economy of San. Commission's policy in one year..... \$750

Assuming each Commission to employ one thousand agents per year to do a given work, the cost to the common benevolence of the country of the Christian Commission's policy over and above the policy of the Sanitary Commission would be three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000) each year.

THE MASON & HAMLIN CABINET ORGAN.

With your eyes shut, you cannot distinguish its sound from the pipe organ itself; and the advantages that commend it are: its price—for it can be had for one, two, three, or four hundred dollars, according to the size you wish; it takes up very little room, and may stand in any part of the church; it is not affected by heat or cold, or any change of temperature; it remains for a long period in good tune; and lastly, it can be sent by express or otherwise any distance with safety. It is admirably adapted to the performance of sacred music, psalm tunes, anthems, chants, etc.; and any one who can play on the piano can readily master the Cabinet Organ. It is a grand accompaniment when the congregation sing, and is just the instrument that ought to be used in all churches where the people all wish to have the privilege of bearing a part in the praise.—New York Observer.

On Wednesday Night. Selections from six chapters of 2d Samuel, David and Abigail, a Poem..... N. P. Willis Selections from the Tragedy of Macbeth..... Shakespeare The Song of the Forge—The Plough, the Anchor, and the Sword..... Anonymous The Ocean..... Byron The Poet, a Ballad..... Scott Ballad of New Orleans—The fight between Farragut's Fleet and the Rebel Forts..... Boker The Oath—An Invocation to Patriotism..... Buchanan Read The Shooting Party—A Humorous Sketch, containing Sam. Weller's Lecture on "Weal Piet," and Mr. Pickwick's experience of the effects of Cold Punch..... Dickens

DEATHS.

HOOD—On Jan. 27th, SAMUEL BINGHAM HOOD, only son of Thomas Hood, Esq., of this city, aged 16.

Special Notices.

A LECTURE.—Two Months in South Italy—Rome, Ancient and Modern. Naples on the Beautiful Bay. By Rev. JOHN McLEOD, Pompeii, the Buried City. On Tuesday evening, Feb. 7th, 1865, at 7 1/2 o'clock. Tickets, 25 cents.

Philadelphia Tract and Mission Society. The next meeting in behalf of this Society will be held in the Moravian Church, corner of Frank and Wood streets, on Sabbath evening, Feb. 11th, at 7 1/2 o'clock. Several speakers will address the meeting. Public invited.

Daily Union Prayer Meeting. From 12 to 1 o'clock in the Hall, No. 1011 Chestnut street. In and give a few moments to God and your soul.

Prayer was appointed to convene. The blessing God designs to give. Long as they live should Christians pray. For only while they pray they live.

Omnibuses and Horse Railroads. Messrs. PERRY DAVIS & SONS—Gentlemen—I have for many years used your valuable medicine, the Pain Killer, on my horses, and can testify to its efficacy in curing Galls, Sprains, Bruises, Cuts, Cramps, Weak Joints, Rheumatism, Swellings, Colic, &c., &c. I have the utmost confidence in the Pain Killer, and therefore recommend it to the public as the best remedy for horses yet discovered. No farmer or owner of horses should be without it constantly on hand. I have had over forty horses in constant use, in the omnibus business, and have never known it to fail in any case where I have used it.

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New Publications.

AGNES AND THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST.

ARMY AND NAVY HOSPITALS.

The U. S. Christian Commission, at Philadelphia, have made an appropriation toward placing these well-known books, with other kindred spirit, by the same author, (Rev. Dr. Adams, of Boston,) in the Army and Navy Hospitals, and they invite the numerous friends of these valuable works to aid in extending their circulation. The books are as follows:—THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. CHRIST A FRIEND. THE COMMUNION SABBATH. AGNES. CATHARINE. BROADCAST, a book of original detached thoughts. They have all been revised, with a view to their being circulated by all denominations. As books of consolation and instruction, they have received the highest encomiums here and in Great Britain. We wish to supply our officers, seamen, and the hospital libraries with them, and we can dispense of them without any assignable limit. Arrangements have been made with Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, publishers of the works of Rev. Dr. Adams, by which an

ARMY EDITION of these excellent books, in plain, strong binding, can be furnished by the Christian Commission as follows:—The set of the six books, or six of any of them, 50 Five sets..... 250 Twenty-five..... 1250 Order for one or more sets of these books, with the money, and any special designation, may be left with either of the gentlemen named above, or the books may be obtained directly from the Publishers. Donations are solicited, which will be acknowledged, and the books at once forwarded by

W. H. BISHOP, LL. D., 30 Biltmore House, New York, CHARLES DEMOND, Esq., 91 Washington street, Boston. Or by the undersigned, A. BREWER, President of Springfield Branch of U. S. Christian Commission, Springfield, Mass., Jan. 19, 1865.

CLEANSE THE BLOOD.

With corrupt, disordered, or vitiated blood, you are liable to suffer from eruptions, pimples, or eruptions, or in some active disease, or it may keep you nervous, depressed, and sad for nothing. But you cannot have good health while your blood is impure. AYER'S SERRAPAPILLA purges the blood, restores the health and expelling disease. Hence it is a most valuable remedy for a variety of diseases, and is rapidly curing a variety of diseases, and is rapidly curing a variety of diseases, and is rapidly curing a variety of diseases.

During late years the public have been misled by large bottles, pretending to give a cure of Extract of Serrapapilla for one dollar. Most of these have been frauds upon the sick, for they not only contain little, if any, Serrapapilla, but are composed of cheap and worthless ingredients. Hence bitter disappointment has followed the use of the various extracts of serrapapilla which are so cheaply sold, until the name itself has become synonymous with imposition and cheat. Still we call this compound "Serrapapilla," and intend to supply the public with a remedy which will restore the health and expelling disease. We can only assure the sick, that we offer them the best alternative which they can have, and we are sure that they will believe it to be by far the most effectual purifier of blood yet discovered by any one.

Select Readings.

SELECT READINGS

BY JAMES E. MURDOCH, Esq.

On WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY EVENINGS, 8th and 9th of February, Mr. MURDOCH will give his third and fourth Readings for the season in Concert Hall.

The programmes for the two evenings are as follows:—

On Wednesday Night. Selections from six chapters of 2d Samuel, David and Abigail, a Poem..... N. P. Willis Selections from the Tragedy of Macbeth..... Shakespeare The Song of the Forge—The Plough, the Anchor, and the Sword..... Anonymous The Ocean..... Byron The Poet, a Ballad..... Scott Ballad of New Orleans—The fight between Farragut's Fleet and the Rebel Forts..... Boker The Oath—An Invocation to Patriotism..... Buchanan Read The Shooting Party—A Humorous Sketch, containing Sam. Weller's Lecture on "Weal Piet," and Mr. Pickwick's experience of the effects of Cold Punch..... Dickens

On Thursday Night. Selection from Job, chaps. xxxviii., xxxix. Moral and Philosophical Reflections on Life, Death, and Prayer..... Shakespeare Selections from the Merchant of Venice..... Shakespeare "The pond of Beth."..... do Katawa, Wines..... Longfellow The Skeleton in Armor..... do The Mantle of St. John De Matha; or the Legend of the Red, White, and Blue..... J. G. Whittier Our Heroes..... Francis De Haes Janvier Sheridan's Ride..... T. Buchanan Read The Light Brigade—The charge of the Six Hundred at Balaklava..... Tennyson The Trial of Bartolomew Ptokwick, with the grand old pleading of Sergeant Dufus for the plaintiff..... Dickens

Two of these, The Mantle of St. John De Matha, and Sheridan's Ride, are new pieces. John De Matha was born in France, in the year 1154, and believing that God had given him a special work of delivering captives, he devoted his life to this humane labor, travelling about in garments made of three colored, white, and blue, which point Whittier has nobly rendered into verse.

Mr. Murdoch's forceful and beautiful reading of the piece, lately, in Boston, produced much effect.

The ticket admits one person to one reading on either evening. No reserved seats. Price of tickets, 50 cents. To be had at the Presbyterian House Bookstore, No. 1334 Chestnut street; at Ashmead & Evans' Bookstore, No. 724 Chestnut street, and at the door of the Hall.

The avails are to aid in furnishing the new Olivet Presbyterian Church.

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A BOOK FOR THE AGED. SUGGESTIVE CHAPTERS FOR THOSE IN THE EVENING OF LIFE. Based on Scripture Narratives of the Aged. Printed in large clear type. One volume, 12mo. Muslin. \$1.00.

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A very valuable and interesting 12mo. volume, with eleven illustrations, giving a full view of the Physical, Moral, and Social Condition of the Zulus, their language, customs, products, geology, &c. It will interest the philanthropist and the general reader, as well as the friends of missions.

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