GENESEE EVANGELIST.

A Religious and Family Newspaper IN THE INTEREST OF THE Constitutional Presbyterian Church.

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PRESENT ASPECTS OF THE RE-UNION QUESTION.

Upon this important subject an animated discussion is still in progress, chiefly, however, in papers connected with the Old School branch of the Presbyterian Church. Those upon our side have, we believe, said just enough to express the cordial readiness of the so-called New School to receive an honorable proposition—and from the brethren engaged in ten it. the agitation, we are sure that no other could come-for bringing our divided existence to an end. Beyond this, the New School papers have, so far as we have observed abstained from much participation in the discussion. They have simply sought to place our church right upon the record, and then left the matter to culminate in the hands of brethren on the other side.

The question may be asked, why these papers are not exhibiting a warmer zeal on the subject—why, after the long time in which our church has sought after a Christian fraternity with our Old School brethren, we do not fly to the aid of those noble spirits among them, through whose exertions a fraternal intercourse has already been commenced, and who are further striving to tone their people to the point of its consummation in an organic unity?

we answer for ourselves. The labor just tion in which the expression of these specified - that of bringing the Old views, in just that connection, would School Chuch, as a whole, to the point of place us. Across the wide chasm made a just and christian proposal for re-union, in 1837, parties do not come together They seem still to be looking for the absorpis unquestionably the first and most un- without change on the part of somebody. certain labor towards the unity sought. It may be mutual, or it may be altogether they are behind the times. They have been on one side. The Presbytery referred to indulging in a Rip Van Winkle nap, during which the New School holds in the New Sc aught that has yet appeared, a majority says, we have not stirred. Meeting them of the ministry and eldership of that with that protest flaunting before uschurch, who, while they confess to a what is this but a public confession that greatly improved feeling toward us, and the wrong is on our part? We do not ly as large and strong as was the whole church a true satisfaction in the correspondence suppose this to have been the animus of just previous to the disruption. And what instituted between the Assemblies, are nevertheless opposed to a return to an ecclesiastical union with us, until, as they are pleased to say, we are better reformed of our heresies. To disabuse those of our heresies. To disabuse those brethren of their deep-rooted apprehensions of danger from ecclesiastical union with us, will be found the first, and prowith us, will be found the first, and probably the greatest impediment in the bably the greatest impediment in the aside a communication first published in above mentioned body as a branch of the way of the enterprise inaugurated at the the Cincinnati Presbyter, and afterward church of our common Lord.' And more Newark meeting, last May. Toward the in other papers. We regret to say recently, as everybody knows, a most fraterremoval of that obstruction, our services that it has been mislaid, so that we would be of no account, and any attempt speak of it only from memory. It of ours to put in an oar, would be more was evidently written by a sincere and prosperity. Is it not about twenty seven likely to embarrass than help the brethren friend to re-union, and one who cherished years too late, to talk about the door being who have the matter in hand. We look kind and Christian feelings toward our open, if they want to come back? on, while such noble and free-hearted church. Yet, in laying down certain brethren as Tustin, Montfort, Edwards, things as assumed points of agreement. Burt and Nevin are laboring against the tenacious spirit which first sundered us, and still insists on separation, but we are considered, both within and outside of but with all branches of the Presbyterian not cold spectators of their "labor of the Old School church, that the Old Church in our land. These are times love." Their labors, in the present stage of the agitation, lie in a direction where succession of the old Presbyterian imperil principles. These are times for

ours can be of no avail that any proposal for re-union should that any proposal for re-union should come from the Old School side. This is obvious to any one acquainted with the would now taunt us with such epithets thinkers as different, for example, as Mr. On the occasion corresponding to it four history of the past. There is a pro- as schism and secession; but it ought Barnes and Dr. Bonar. These are times priety in it which was, with christian to be known that if the question of suc- for Christians to be done with the wickdelicacy, practically conceded by those cession is brought forward, a needless edness of making a man an offender for who got up the Newark meeting. The and probably fatal element is introduced a word, and to receive one another as same propriety rules in the progress of into the discussion. Our status, as the Christ has received us. We are not the agitation until the point of an actual Constitutional Church, we have never, simply willing, we are anxious for an ecproposal is reached. No one, remember- for a moment, yielded, and our brethren, clesiastical union with all our Presbyte- ing to dissolve the Union and divide the efing the history of the relations of the if they reflect a moment, will not now two bodies, would ask us to anticipate ask us to become suppliants for amnesty spirit, with them to enjoy sweet fellowsuch a proposal by a too zealous procla- and restoration. We never seceded ship in Christ, and with them to labor tion survive; and the other would accept mation of our consent—to say "yes" be- from the original Presbyterian church, fore we are asked. It is at least suitable and we are not schismatics. If our that we should wait until we see some Old School brethren think the same of of the difficulties, which the discussions themselves, we have no wish, at this in the Old School papers are constantly late day, to contest the point. We only revealing, out of the way—difficulties express our surprise that any cordial la- we think it due to truth and denominawhich we, on our side, cannot help to re-

sentiment in the Old School church, con- School, (i. e., in the New School,) the suitors for union as a concession. We cerning re-union, to which we have alexclusive succession of the Old School are an independent denomination of true ready referred. Our brethren on that is an admitted fact. side who are anxious to bring it about, are nevertheless too wise to offer it to us current articles on this subject, which ing to our father's house, and it is by a divided vote, and under the protest reveal views respecting us of which our all lost labor toward re-union to moot of many of their influential men. They Old School brethren must be reformed, the question whether it will be safe an easier triumph, and a result less fundaof many of their influential men. They old school before they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. Both read the same where this chapel stands, were expected before they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. Both read the same where this chapel stands, were expected before they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. Both read the same to be fore they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. Both read the same to be fore they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. Both read the same to be fore they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. Both read the same to be fore they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. Both read the same to be fore they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. Both read the same to be fore they, as a whole church, will be for them to receive us as such. We are mental and astounding. compacted and harmonious church, and prepared to offer a re-union upon terms not reformed heretics; we are not re-

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but which should bring in with itself often we hear of ourselves as having so vite those brethren to return to us? but | bread from the sweat of other men's faces distrust, disfellowship and dissension. far "recovered" of our lapse into hetero- where, and in what way, shall we pro- but let us judge not, that we be not judged. For this reason even though they should down and disorder that we may now be pose that they and ourselves meet? The prayers of both could not be answered. secure, in their Assembly, a majority who safely allowed "to come back." It may While our warm-hearted brethren of the are personally in favor of re-union, we do not be amiss to give in this place an ex- Newark movement, are earnestly striving not expect them, in view of the expe- tract, which first appeared as a commu- to bring their own church to this view diency of the case, to propose it formally nication in the Presbyterian Banner, of the case, what can we do but prayerunder such circumstances. They will published in Pittsburgh, as a specimen. wait until they find themselves harmon- It runs as follows: ious on the proposition. They are too just to think of re-opening to us the dissensions which were terminated by the dissensions of Japan and New School. I was educated for division of 1837.

have to be settled on the other side of the house, preliminary to any hopeful out from us because they were not of us; if they propose to recognize us and two cannot walk together unless they be agreed. Our New School brethren went out from us because they were not of us; if they had been of us, they they propose to recognize us, and the assumptions which would be made respecting the relative changes and positions of severest conflict of opinion among them-selves, and here, less than anywhere else, could our interference he of our avoil Those dear brethren among them whose who have been suspected, should ask connec hearts are ripe for a Presbyterian unity, know what is due to a christian and denominational self-respect, and we would without 'mental reservations,' let them come not expect them to approach us with to us, in 'through the door,—as many of terms which imply that we have forgot-

Still we do sometimes see a forgetfulness, unconscious we presume, of what is due to this feeling in the resolutions of Synods and Presbyteries, and in articles in the papers, which in other respects, reveal the kindest and best feeling on the subject. For example, we read last fall, in the proceedings of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, a series of resolutions earnesly in favor of re-union, and expressive of cordial fraternity with us. But are anxious for re-union; and if it bethe last was marred by one resolution, protesting in substance that, while the Presbytery was thus anxious for the proposed unity, it must not be understood as receding at all from its sentiments in regard to the original causes of the divi-

ing the paper before us. The Presbytery has an undoubted right to retain its views on the originally We are not authorized to speak for divisive points. But our good brethren other papers connected with our church: of that body cannot fail to see the posithe resolution. We presume it was a is more, our General Assembly has repeatedly and emphatically acknowledged the comseries, to make them less nauseous to cer- withstanding its identity of name and claims tain of their people. But they should with ourselves. So long ago as 1846, while remember that we cannot afford to have courteously declining, in its official and cor-

and bases of negotiation, it was stated, in substance, that it is now generally hal organic unity, not only with them, School branch is the legitimate and proper for union, for concessions which do not It is, in every point of view, becoming past, this claim was expressed in coarser would hold the theology of a denomina-One of these is the divided state of should be made, that, outside of the Old now, as forbid our taking the attitude of

the ministry during the war—the time that tried men's souls'-in the eighteen hundred Another of the difficulties which the and thirties. I cannot forget those trouble discussions have revealed, and which will some times, and the lesson then learned, that the New School are much nearer to us or the parties. On this ground we expect with us now than when we separated in 1837 our Old School brethren to encounter the | and 1838. The door has always, since the could our interference be of any avail. ination. It appears strange to me, that any tion on easier terms than are granted to our own brethren. If they are really with us in doctrine, and can receive our creed, as we do, them have done—and not climb in some other way.' And let those who cannot bear this examination remain where they are, so that they and we can live in peace. If any come in, without agreement in doctrine, they cannot pass into another Presbytery, where they must bear examination.'

Refreshingly in contrast with the above is the following, which we have clipped from The Presbyter, and which doubtless comes from the pen of its editor, Dr. Montfort. Perhaps it is not over sanguine respecting the proportion of the Old School church who trays some delusion concerning the courtesy of the Old School Assembly in its manner of declining an inter-communion with our own, the mistake is traceable to the good heart of the writer, to the "wish that was father to the sion. We quote from memory not hav- thought."

"Probably," says the Presbyter, "four-fifths, if not nine-tenths of our people and ministers are pleased with the prospect of a speedy coming together of the two branches of our church. Occasionally we find a person who is opposed to organic re-union. Such. very commonly, without any reason in particular for their opinions, utter their feelings in the expression, "Well, the door is open; if they want to come back, let them come back."

tion' of the other branch into ours.
"We desire to intimate to such persons, that ing any signs of being 'absorbed,' has steadily advanced in numbers and influence and denominational position, until now it is nearmere sugar-coating for the others of the plete church-status of the other branch, notaside a communication first published in was careful to state that it recognized the nal correspondence has been opened between the two bodies, in which they mutually rejoice in each other's denominational honor

If it will be of any service to our Old School brethren, we frankly assure them that we should delight in a really fraterchurch in these United States. In times the relaxing of that bitter bigotry which words. Neither this writer, nor the tion chaotic, simply because it recognizes rian brethren who can meet us in that for the advancement of the kingdom of war rather than let it perish. And the war

our Lord. But whatever may have been the appearance of, or impression conveyed by, our acts and temper a score of years ago, borer for re-union should now bring it tional self-respect to say, that we are by up at all-much more that the assertion the favor of God, in such circumstances. orthodox Presbyterians, totus, teres atque And we frequently see remarks in the rotundus. We are not prodigals return-

NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO OFFICIAL INTEGRITY.

One of the most hopeful signs of the times is the fact that the guidance of our national affairs, during the whole period of our troubles, has been in the hands of an honest man; and that this characteristic of public honesty has received the hearty endorsement of the great majority of our citizens. Mr. Lincoln reascends the Presidential seat as a representative of the sound moral sentiment of the country.

We do not mean for a moment to say that mere honesty, without the exhibition of real ability, would have secured to Mr. we do reckon the unquestioned, stainless integrity, and the pure patriotism of Mr. under tests the severest, perhaps, that a public man has ever endured, as the grounds of a very large measure of his popularity with the people. The feeling s: we can trust him. He is aiming at no personal aggrandizement, he is making no industrious use of his vast opportunities for building up fortunes for himself and a score of favorites and dependents; he is gratifying no party grudges, and carrying out no mere party schemes; he is diligently and faithfully, with simplicity and seemingly prayerful dependence on lead the country safely through the greatest crisis in its history.

Had Mr. Lincoln, in the first four years of his administration, proved himself to be of the same narrow, partisan type with his immediate predecessors in office for several terms, he would have been promptly discarded by the people. Without his sturdy, rugged, honesty, the western flatboatman's son would have gone down forever into political oblivion; hat storling quality has ensured him an immortality which his astuteness, caution, inflexible pertinacity and calm courage amid danger, would never have availed to secure. Thank God for such a quality is public men at any time; thank God for an honest President in times of unparalled national trial; thank of trust and power. To have refused Mr. Lincoln, and to have once more elevated a mere tool of blind party bigots that was intended. to power would have been proof of a degree of infatuation beyond recovery. But we exter now with hope and with joy upon another four years' rule of a chief magistrate, whose integrity has been so thoroughly tried, and whose remarkable inaugural salutation reveals the deep religious sources from which the moral soundness of the man is derived. Happy is the people whose chief magistrate lives and shapes his policy under the influence of thoughts so devout, so humbling, and yet so ennobling and so purifying as these.

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS. Fellow-Countrymen—At the second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential

office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at first. Then a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public demonstrations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented.

The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself: and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all.

years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it—all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war-seekfects by negotiation.

Both parties deprecated wan; but one of them would make war rather than let the na-

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest.

All knew that this interest was, somehow,

the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained.

Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for

Almighty has his own purpose. "Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh."

If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which having continued through his appointed time, he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe

Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray that this mighty scourge of war may soon pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid with another drawn by the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteons altogether.

With malice towards none; with charity of real ability, would have secured to Mr.

Lincoln the suffrages of the people; but gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the name of the property of the prop tion's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and Lincoln, in his conspicuous position, and orphan; to do all which we may to achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDING EDITOR

FESTIVAL AND DEDICATION IN BUFFALO.

For two or three years past the North Church in Buffalo, (Rev. Dr. Smith's), has been deeply interested to do something to cultivate the waste places in that city. In May last, a mission school was started in the eastern part of the town, in a destitute neighborhood, fami-God, aiming to do his duty, and striving to liarly known as the "Hydraulics." The building first occupied for its purposes was a part of the old "Buffalo Hotel." The ball-room, in the third story, which had witnessed many a scene of festive revelry, was cleansed and arranged for the principal hall, and two other rooms were appropriated to the infant classes. The school commenced with seventy scholars; in three months it had three hundred.

In June last, Mr. Henry Ward, a licentiate and student in Auburn Seminary, was employed during his vacation. to visit the neighborhood, hold pravermeetings, and preach on the Sabbath. Although Mr. Ward, whose labors are very acceptable and manifestly blest, was compelled to return to his studies at Auburn in the fall, yet the prayer-meet-God for a people that recognizes, honors ings have been sustained to the present and retains the rare quality in its places time, and the school continued in prosperous operation. So far the work was a manifest success, but this was not all

From the first, it was felt that a more desirable building than the old tavern would be necessary, if the enterprise was successful. The plan for erecting a proper Mission Chapel was started some time since, and it was expected that the building would be finished and ready for use in the fall, but various difficulties and delays, incident to the times and the weather, compelled the school to harbor in the old ball-room until last week.

The new building is pleasantly located on Seneca street, about a mile, we believe, east of the other Presbyterian churches, and cost, with the lot, about room of this building is forty by sixty feet, with a wing on each side, sixteen hall by folding doors, and all can be used as one on special occasions, or in the general exercises of the school. The whole will accommodate about six hundred scholars, and promises soon to be filled.

Last Sabbath afternoon the services superintendent, to whose earnest attencess of the enterprise is due, directed the Foreign Missions. exercises. After singing by the school, and the reading of the Scriptures, prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Marshall, of the Baptist Church. He was followed ley, who recently gave six thousand dolby Rev. Dr. Smith, in a most effective lars to Hamilton College, headed the and truly eloquent address, touching the subscription to Home Missions this year plans, hopes, and aims of the North Church, in regard to this enterprise. His remarks were all aglow with love for souls; and as the speaker dwelt upon the responsibilities of the Sabbath-school teachers, the rapt attention and moistened eve told how deeply the audience aid them in their music. were moved.

The infant class then sang, "Jesus loves me." After which, Rev. Mr. Marshall gave an address of welcome, showing the need of such an enterprise in terian Church ever since the church was that part of the city. Dr. Clark, of the founded, died in that city last Sunday, First Church, and Dr. Heacock, of the in the eighty-seventh year of his age. Lafayette Street, who was born very near | He was in his day an earnest, active, where this chapel stands, were expected public spirited man, highly respected, compacted and harmonious church, and they could not ask us to accept of a reunion which should not merely forbode union which should not merely fo

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whom we have before spoken, gave an interesting statement of his labors there through the summer, and led the prayer that of neither has been answered fully. The of dedication—and so the building stands consecrated to the Sunday-school work.

But this is not all. The plan is still to employ a minister, to keep up the preaching service, and as soon as circumstances will warrant, organize a church, and give those here assembled the full ordinances of the gospel. It is a noble design, and reflects great credit on the liberality and enterprise of the North Church, by which it has been successfully carried thus far.

THE FESTIVAL.

Of this we ought not to omit all mention, as this, in fact, first dedicated the building. It occurred on Wednesday, the 22d, while the whole country was rejoicing in our recent victories. This was an attempt of the self-denying teachers and their friends to gratify and more deeply interest the scholars. Nearly five hundred happy faces were gathered and earnest singing by the school, and a plentiful eating of the good things abundantly provided for the occasion. It involved some hard work on the part of those that "serve tables:" but it will pay well in the increased interest and attendance on the part of the little ones, in that needy portion of the city.

PRESBYTERY OF OSWEGO.

The annual meeting of this Presbytery was recently held in New Haven, Oswego County; and it was a meeting of much interest and profit. One of the principal subjects brought up for consideration was that of cheese-making on the Sabbath; the same which was so fully considered by the Presbytery of Utica at its recent meeting in Vernon. This is now a fearful evil in our dairying districts, and deserves the attention which it is receiving by our ecclesiastical bodies.

The subject was brought before the Presbytery by the following overture: Can a Christian, consistently with his profession, convey, or cause to be conveyed, the milk of his dairy to a Cheese Factory, to be manufactured into cheese on the Sabbath?"

The Presbytery answered unanimously: "That a Christian, instead of conveying, or allowing his milk to be conveyed, to a Cheese Factory on the Sabbath, should take a decided stand against the whole movement." The Presbytery add: "It is time for the church to wake up to the growing evil -an evil which is demoralizing the pubc conscience, injuring the church Christ, and ruining immortal souls. Cheese making on the Sabbath is neither a work of necessity nor of mercy, and consequently no good man can give the

least encouragement to it." 'INTEREST IN HAMILTON COLLEGE. We hear of a "marked religious interest" in this highly favored institution perhaps it may be called a revival. It has indeed been in progress for nearly or quite two weeks. Meetings are held in the different halls every night. The Christian students—some at least—are quickened, and not a few of the impenitent are coming to Christ.

HOUGHTON SEMINARY.

This large and delightful institution for young ladies is also receiving a blessfour thousand dollars. The principal ing. The day of prayer for colleges was very strictly and solemnly observed by the churches in Clinton, and its fruit is by twenty, one for the infant class, and already manifesting itself. Special favors one for Bible classes. Three smaller are falling, at least, upon the Houghton rooms are connected with the principal | Seminary. Thursday was a great day there; and now almost all the boarders are rejoicing in Christ.

AUBURN SEMINARY

The catalogue of our school of the prophets is just out, and gives the names of forty students in attendance upon its course of instruction—seventeen Seniors; of dedication occurred. The usual exer- eleven in the Middle class; and twelve cises of the school were omitted. The in the Junior-and we are assured, by weather was very unfavorable, but the those that ought to know, that they are house was full. Mr. Ketchum, the a fine body of young men, and give promise of great usefulness. Two or three tion and active interest much of the suc- are expecting to engage in the work of

FURTHER LIBERALITY.

They seem to be in the way of doing generous things in Utica. Mr. Kingswith one thousand. He gave four hundred to the same cause last year.

And now another member of the First Church, a young man of wealth and liberality, has given a first-class piano forte to their Sunday-school, to lead them and

" AN OLD MAN, AND FULL OF DAYS."

Col. Nicholas Smith, who has lived in Utica ever since the place was settled, who was a member of the First Presbytrusted, and honored by his fellow-citi-