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Rev. C. P. Bush, Corresponding Editor, Bochester, N. Y.

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1865.

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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.*

There are three important eras in the history of the Presbyterian Church in order by the early New England settlers. this country: 1st, its origin; 2d, the Salem and Charlestown had ruling elders, division of the 18th century with the subsequent reunion; and 3d, the yet unhealed division of the 19th century. These three stages of the history should bridge, in 1646 and 1680; and at the be familiar to every intelligent member latter date the Westminster Confession of the church. The first two are comprised in little more than half a century, after which, eighty years of growth and development rolled by, without furnish- held at Cambridge in 1637, 1649, 1657, ing matter of more than ordinary in- 1679, 1680, and at Boston in 1662, all terest to the historian. - The materials of which distinctly name ruling elders as however, were gathering, and the forces developing for the great rupture of 1838, since which event, a very stirring quarter-century in both branches of the original body has transpired.

Dr. Gillett's History furnishes a lucid faithful, and sufficiently brief history of the church, in which every reader may easily inform himself upon these salient and leading points, as well as upon the general progress of the intervening periods. We trust it will be widely read, and that those for whom we write, far from being content with the series of articles we wish to devote to the sub- ford, to define Congregationalism as 'a ject, will be led to further investigations | speaking aristocracy in the face of a siin Dr. Gillett's instructive and very read- lent democracy,' or to say of it, with the able volumes.

Unlike Episcopacy, which enjoyed the royal protection, and which, in several-co- this land.' . . . In the absence of that lonies was a State Church and a persecu- state supervision of the churches which ting Church, even after the Act of Toleration in the mother country; unlike Puritanism, which was, as we may say, incarnate in the settlement of New England, and under whose formative influence the body-politic became a Theocracy unlike Quakerism and Romanism, each of which was planted in the British American colonies by distinguished founders of the colonies themselves, Presbyterianism had to gain a footing by its own unaided exertions, and at first in spite of the most determined opposition on the part of the authorities of the States in which it was planted and first propagated.

So far as the early Presbyterianism of the country can be identified with the Puritanism of New England, the bearing of these remarks must be limited. The churches which these New Englanders formed in Long Island and New Jersey which afterwards became Presbyterian were apparently unmolested in the earlier stages of their history. Only after the church at Jamaica, L. I., had elected elders, in 1702, do we hear of Lord Cornbury's interference with its liberty and his high-handed sequestration of its property for Episcopal uses. Virginia however, dealt as summarily with a colony of so-called Independents in 1648, as she would like to do to-day with their descendants in arms, who have got such a stubborn foothold on her "sacred soil."

It is interesting to note the clear indications which Dr. Gillett has furnished us, of the strong Presbyterian predilection of many of the Puritan fathers. They show us of what different material was the Congregationalism of New England, in its heroic days, from that which now boasts the name and claims the honors of such ancestry, and they teach

* History of the Presbyterian Church in America, by E. H. Gillett, author of "The Life and Times of John Huss." Phila. Presb. Pub. Com., 2 vols. 12 mo.

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PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1865.

us the historic grounds of the severe its political sympathies, and in its loyalty, | could be naught but unpleasant to them per- | THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOcharge of degeneracy, which has been made against the brawling, intolerant Independency of our time. We cannot forbear quoting the bulk of these testimonies from pages 2-5 and the note on pages 25, 26 of the first volume. They also throw light upon the character of that Presbyterianism which we are fain to call "American," and which, while free from "Scotch jealousy or rigid ecclesiasticism," is yet chargeable with no needless laxity in affiliating with the Congregationalism of that comparatively

amount of the sont

"The sympathy," says Dr. Gillett in the note referred to, "between the Presbyterian churches and New England was perfectly natural. Robinson (see 'Life of Brewster') was a Presbyterian, and claimed that his church at Leyden was conformed to the rule of the French Presbyterian Church. In 1606, Brewster was chosen elder in Robinson's congregation, and in 1609 was made Robinson's assistant. Then the church at Plymouth was in reality a Presbyterian Church, with Brewster for its ruling elder. A permanent ruling eldership was accepted as a principle of church Watertown and Boston." - Prince's Chronology.

"The office is distinctly recognized by the Synods of New England, at Camwas adopted. The Synod of Connecticut, in 1708 (Saybrook Platform) adopted it. Even Eliot ordained elders at Martha's Vineyard. Synods were officers in the Church. This was the distinct feature of the organization adopted by the Synod, in 1680, in ac-England, in the formation of which in 1690, Dr. J. Mather bore a distinguished part."-Mather's Mag.

In another place the writer says:

"Not a few of the leading minds of New England regretted and opposed the tendencies upon which the churches were drifting towards a relaxation of church order and discipline and it is scarcely surprising that they should have strongly favored the Presbyterian system, when they felt constrained, like Stone of Hartelder Edwards, 'I have long been out of conceit of our unsettled, independent, confused way of church government in constituted the administration of the 'New England Theocracy, he [the New England Puritan | felt the propriety, and yielded to the expediency of an organization to which should be committed the care of the churches."

It is no wonder that such Congregationalists unhesitatingly became Presbyterians when they found themselves bevond the shelter of the New England that the liberal-minded founders of the Presbyterian Church in this country sought the co-operation of the New Eng-Scotland, in carrying out their purposes. And what should follow from the combination of these elements, but just such a Church as we have seen, or may trace in its career of prosperity and progress in the pages of this history, sound without bigotry, strong in government without oppression, elastic, vigorous, comprehensive, assimilating the various elements of which it was composed into a unique but consistent unity, until Scotch and Scotch-Irish exclusivism, coming in with a flood of immigration on the one hand. and "young independency" on the other, were too many for the true representatives of its liberal idea. From the one excinding acts of 1837; from the other. the Albany Convention of 1852. But Presbyterianism of Scotland and of Ge neva, is the existence, vitality, expansiveness, and prosperity of our own branch of the Church, from which both of the other tendencies eliminated themselves, expecting that nothing would be left. On the contrary, there remains not only the true historic successor of the original Presbyterian Church in this country, but a Church the most thor-

of any of the truly Presbyterian and Calvinistic bodies of the country.

The early history of the Presbyterian Church in America, say for a period of fifty years, is a sketch, in smaller proportions, of its whole career. The first rupture, of 1741, anticipates that of a century later; its causes were similar, the tendencies brought into play were much the same; and the same great principles are illustrated in the view of all thoughtful minds. One great question is suggested by the entire history, and that is, Can the hard, rigorous, ipsissima verba type ism ever permanently lay aside its national character and partake of the geniality and elasticity of the American type, so as to form a harmonious and effective combination with it; or must it ever maintain its specific character, and after periods of seeming acquiescence and assimilation, be found again marshaling its clans, pronouncing its Shibboleths of exclusivism, and flaming out in some grand revolutionary movement as conscientious, as vehement, and as reckless of consequences, when a figment of philosophy or a question of mere interpretation is at stake, as if the fell spirit of heresy itself and competent rulers in every official were abroad, and the cardinal doctrines us anything; shall it not quicken the of the Evangelical Church were in immiment danger? Can the Scotch school of Presbyterianism ever be materially different from this? Can it lay aside in this country, constantly recruited as it is from the sturdy flock of the mother coun- one, which, when about being rescued, try, that perfervidum ingenium Scotorum, which for ages has been at once the glory and the disadvantage of the children of that rugged and romantic land? This is a question of the highest cordance with 'Heads of agreement' in interest and importance just at this junc ture, when, after the experience of two divisions, we seem to be on the point of trying once more the experiment of combining the two types. The world moves, and Scotland moves with it, doubtless. But it is worth serious consideration in the light of this history whether she and her American representatives in theology have moved far enough to give well-grounded hopes of harmony in a new combination.

DRUNKENNESS IN HIGH PLACES.

At length the apathy of the public upon the general subject of the use of intoxicating drinks, and upon the personal character and habits of candidates for the highest places of trust and power in its gift, has brought forth its legitimate fruits. in a great public scandal. The country has been called to witness the astounding spectacle of a Vice President, drunk at the solemn moment of inauguration; taking the oath of fidelity to his high duties upon maudlin lips and with s critical period, in a debased incompetent, after succor reaches us." brutalized state of mind; as if the peo-'Theocracy." Nor is it any wonder ple had called him to a carousal instead of a post of the highest dignity and responsibility!

The grief, surprise and shame we feel at this development, cannot be put in land of that day, no less than that of words. In common with the great body of our fellow citizens, we admired the brave and loyal Tennessean, before and during the war, and testified it by our vote. We knew nothing of his personal character, but supposed that he was no worse than public men generally are, We were totally unprepared for such an exhibition of utter want of self respect, and disregard of all the ordinary and extraordinary proprieties of the occasion and the office. But whatever be our surprise and whatever our former regard, we renounce all sympathy with, as we are constrained unhesitatingly to abandon all confidence in a man who has revealed such total unfitness for him. revealed such total unfitness for his place, who in fact has only used it to signalize to the entire nation his shameful incompetency. In response to the vote of the party came the rupture of 1741, and the people, clothing him with the mantle of one of its very highest offices, he has deliberately and grossly insulted us all. He would scarcely have done a worse act, the proof that American Presbyterianism if he had slapped the Chief Justice in is a reality, a species, as much as is the the face, as he administered to him the oath of office.

We rejoice to see the American Senate giving proof of its self-respect in view of the conduct of its presiding officer. A Washington telegram to one of city dailies of last week says :___

"The movement privately inaugurated on Saturday night for the removal of Andy Johnson from the speakership of the Senate, is daily finding a more free scope, but it is doubtful whether it will be seriously insisted oughly American in its membership, in any moment to happen, the result of which ceding eighteen months.

sonally, and a tarnish upon the honor of the

A late telegram to the same paper (Public Ledger,) says:—

"Senator Foster still presides in the Senate, owing to Vice President Johnson's disposiion to still further continue his plebeian manners of inauguration day. At present he has been taken by some of his friends out of the city, and there is certainly no desire on the part of the Senate that he should ever return, unless he does so to resign his office.

We have not the least doubt that the country would fully sustain the Senate in any measure necessary to rid the body, as well as the country at large, of the deep disgrace into which we have been plunged. Another part of the same teleof Scotch and Scotch-Irish Presbyterian- gram shows that if the Senate cannot get rid of a drunken Vice President, it will at least, mark those of its own members, who have incapacitated themselves for a proper discharge of their duties, by similar indulgences:

"The Vice President does not, however, appear to be the only member of the Senate addicted to drunkenness. Two Senators have been omitted from the Standing Committees of that body for the coming year, because for months past they have preferred the bottle

to their duty as legislators. And will the people now take warning? Will this most humiliating occurrence arouse the better class of our citizens to the necessity of exerting their whole influence for the selection of honest station? Shall the costly lesson avail efforts made to revive the temperance reformation, and arrest by its conspicuous and overwhelming character the drinking tendencies of society generally and of public men especially? Let us show that we have country worth saving; not by stupendous outlays of money and life from the slave power, succumbs after all, to the more insidious and more degrading usurpations of the rum power.

REBEL PREDICTIONS FALSIFIED.

There is scarcely a captured rebel city but comes into the hands of our forces upon the heels of the most positive deevent, made by rebel correspondents and editors. But the most remarkable in- valuable addition to the population. stances of such falsified assurances occurred with rebel journals in Vicksburg and in Charleston.

The Vicksburg Daily Citizen of July It is the last number issued before the the white man's country, every acre of narrow columns printed on the reverse side of a piece of upholsterer's wall paper: the right side, which is occupied and ambitious of the colored population suited for taking an impression from types. It contains flowing accounts of to the African race in this country, we Gettysburg, and says, "Old Abe has departed to parts unknown." Speaking | earnest efforts to put down the unchrisof the scarcity of provisions in Vicks- tian prejudices against color of which we burg, it says :- "It is needless to attempt are guilty. This is our first comprehento disguise from the enemy or our own sive duty to the African race, and any people that our wants are great, but still form of reputed beneficence which takes we can conscientiously assert our belief a course unfavorable to the higher and

Another extract is as follows:-

"On DIT,-That great Ulysses-the Yankee Generalissimo, surnamed Grant—has expressed his intention of dining in Vicksburg on Saturday next, and celebrating the 4th of July by a grand dinner and so forth. When asked if he would invite General Joe. Johnston to join, he said, 'No! for fear there will be a row at the table.' Ulysses must get into the city before he dines in it. The way to cook a rabbit is 'first catch the rabbit,

A brief note from the hand of a Union soldier, finishes the last column of the Citizen, and indicates both its fate and that of the city. It runs thus:-

"NOTE. eulogize the luxury of mules' meat and fricasseed kitten-urge Southern warriors to such diet never more. This is the last wall-paper edition, and is, excepting this note, from the types as we found them. It will be valuable hereafter as a curiosity.

When Sherman entered Charleston, there was found in the Charleston Courier office an editorial in type for next day's paper, beginning as follows:-

"There are no indications that our authorities have the least intention of abandoning Charleston, as we have ascertained from careful inquiry The compositor had not time to set the whole article before he was called

upon to evacuate. CHILDS' NATIONAL ALMANAC for this annual will appear hereafter in the

CIETY.

The annual report of this Society, recently published, shows that the receipts of the Society for 1864 were over ninetyone thousand dollars, and the expendiciety's packet, the "M. C. Stevens," has had so little employment, that it was deemed expedient to sell her, which was thousand dollars, which are invested in Presbyterian. United States securities. Thirty-five thousand dollars of the annual income have also been invested in a similar manner, and thirty-five thousand paid to the Government of Liberia. Only twentyduring the year. One of them is Pro-Principal of a Collegiate Institute for

procured by the Society. has fallen almost to nothing, a movement Hanson, first Commissioner and Consul General of the United States, was formally received by the authorities of Li-Rev. J. B. Pinney was received as the States, three other governments, Sweden indication of material and moral prosperity is given by Liberia at the present time. The liberated Africans thrown suddenly upon the country from captured slave ships, have disappointed the fears clarations of its impregnability, or at least of the Liberians and their friends, by of the utter improbability of such an showing remarkable capacity for civilizing processes, and are becoming a

We regret to notice certain intimations in this report that the existing civil disaare likely to be permanent. The idea is which will be monopolized by the Anglothe young, and vigorous, and intelligent, by which we may evade our solemn duty is time for Christian men to unite in of the race.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.

This State Institution for the Insane, recently founded at Dixmont, near Pittsburg, appears to be under excellent management. Thomas Bakewell, Esq., of Pittsburg, is President, and Dr. Jos. A. Reed, is the Superintendent. From the annual report of the managers, just received, we learn that two hundred and thirty-four patients have been under treatment during the year, one hundred and four of whom were received in 1864. Thirty-six have been discharged recovered, and eighteen improved, during the year; ten have died. Of the entire number, seven hundred and ninety-nine, received since April, 1856, three hundred tisement? Read the following from an and twelve have been discharged re-Illinois correspondent of our cotemporary. covered, and one hundred and eighty-two | The Presbyterian:-"Our Illinois Legimproved; seventy-seven have died. islature recently visited Chicago on what Many objectionable cases are sent, by seemed to be a mere excursion for pleaorders of the Court, etc., to the institu- sure. Certainly its legitimate duties tion, filling it up with incurables, and scarcely called it so far from Springfield. lessening its efficiency as a curative in- It came; it saw; it defied God: it stitution. There are now one hundred trampled openly upon his holy law; it and thirty such cases in the Hospital, desecrated his Sabbath; it returned. some of whom, having been guilty of Of course, it was invited to visit Camp serious crimes and acquitted on plea of Douglas, the military prison, on the insanity, have been consigned to the In- Sabbath day; and, of course, the invistitution by State authority. It would tation was accepted. No other day seem as if such a course must eventually | could be selected, for a visit made upon completely nullify the chief design of the any other day would not so publicly Institution. Yet there is a great neces- declare our independence of the Sovesity that an asylum for such cases be reign of the universe, and our entire found. Private Christian beneficence irresponsibility of him and his laws. and devotedness are largely exerted in Street cars were put in motion, thoubehalf of similar classes in Europe; we sands of people were abroad to witness. think the celebrated establishment of the proceedings, a grand military pageant 1865-6. Mr. Childs announces that John Bost, at La Force, in France, con- was performed at the camp, a feu-de-joie; tains a department for the incurably in was fired, a season of general festivity fall of the year. The forthcoming num- sane. At any rate, the subject should was inaugurated, and all, as the papers

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FREEDMEN'S MISSION OF THE RE-FORMED CHURCH.

Rev. N. K. Crow, the devoted and efficient superintendent of the Mission of Reformed Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, is now in our city endeavoring tures nearly ninety thousand. The So- to awaken an interest in the mission and to secure funds for its further prosecution. We commend him most cordially to all our readers. Funds for this object may done last October, for the sum of thirty | be sent to the office of the American

THE ENCYCLICAL IN FRANCÉ.

PROTESTING, BUT OBEYING .- The dignitaries of the Romish Church in France seem to be pretty unanimous in protestthree emigrants have gone to Liberia ing against the course of the Emperor; for out of about ninety bishops, only fessor Martin D. Freeman, a native of eleven have been silent. They endeavor Vermont, graduate of Middlebury Coll to make out that it is inconsistent in the lege, and for several years the popular Emperor to allow the document to be published in the newspapers and procolored youth, in Western Pennsylvania. hibit its publication by the bishops. Subscriptions for Mr. H.'s support as But there is a great difference in having Professor of Mathematics and Natural the Pope's bull given by the press as Philosophy in Liberia College have been a document of public interest, and in having the same proclaimed officially While the emigration from this country from the pulpits. The bishops are too intelligent not to see this difference, but in the direction of Liberia is reported in they overlook it in order to strengthen Barbadoes. Aid for the parties prepar- their cause. It is worthy of notice, howing to emigrate has been solicited from ever, that if they nearly all protest, only the Society, and ten thousand dollars two yet have dared to violate the Emwas appropriated to this object by the peror's command. The Universal News Board of Directors. Liberia, as our of London, the organ of the Irish in Engreaders are aware, has been formally land, states, therefore, what is untrue, recognized by our Government. On the when it says that the French bishops 25th of February, 1864, Hon. Abraham have scorned the imperial decree. The same paper is a little too hasty in exulting over the triumph of the representatives of Rome over imperial power in France. beria; and on the 18th of May following, Although the Romish clergy have aided the Emperor in establishing his authority Liberian Charge d'Affaires resident in over France, we do not think that their the United States. Besides the United power alone could dethrone him. After a reign of sixteen years, Napoleon must and Norway, the Netherlands, and Hayti, | be able to measure correctly the influence recognized Liberia during 1864. Every of the clergy, and be prepared for them. One thing is certain, he has taken a bolder stand than we could have expected.

HOT WATER FOR AMERICAN PAPISTS.

The Association of Irish Catholics known as the Fenian Brotherhood, and having for its avowed object the independence of Ireland, is likely to become a dangerous bone of contention among bilities of the African race in this country papists in this country. Our city papers of last week contained as an advertise-2d, 1863, was a curiosity every way. pretty plainly thrown out, that this is ment, a letter from the Romish Bishop Wood, of this Diocese, calling attention to a missive from Archbishop Purcell, of Saxon or some cognate race, and that the Cincinnati Province, also published. both of which will be shells in the camp. Bishop Wood writes over his Episcopal by what might be freely styled a "chaste will wisely prefer to leave. If coloniza- signature, "+ James Frederick, Bishop bedroom pattern," being, of course, untion is to be presented as an expedient of Philadelphia," and pays the following not the most gentle compliment to the Romish paper of this city, which carries Lee's "great victories" on the way to wish to have nothing to do with it. It at its mast head,—" The oldest Catholic Paper in the United States."

"I take this opportunity to state that the assertion, or insinuation, contained in the "Universe" of January 14, that a letter had been received from Rome, announcing the decision concerning the Fenians, in the words 'Feniani non sunt inquietandi,' (the Fenians are not to be disturbed), is both a falsehood reeling brain; entering upon his term of that there is plenty within our lines, by more pressing interests of justice, is ceived, and no such decision made. What office at this indescribably important and an exercise of prudence, to last until long likely to lose favor with the true friends scrupulous in the choice of means to further impracticable projects.

Archbishop Purcell's letter closes as follows :-

"Finally, I love Ireland, I desire its inde-pendence, I deplore its sad fate for the last three hundred years, especially under the galling yoke of England's injustice, inhumanity and tyranny; but I have no faith that the Fenian head centres, or State centres could govern her, if they had the chance. On the contrary, I believe they would give her a worse Constitution, and make her condition worse than it is at present. And I therefore conjure every man who has any respect for my judgment and advice to have nothing to do with the Fenians."

Is Our Nation Prepared for Peace? In other words, has the time come when our righteous and supreme Ruler can consistently remove the rod of chas-

on. At the same time, members feel uneasy ber will contain information for the prein their seats in view of occurrences likely ber will contain information for the prethe wealthy of our country.

| At the same time, members feel uneasy ber will contain information for the prenot be overlooked by the humane and of next morning informed us, 'for the
the wealthy of our country.'