

Religious Intelligence.

PRESBYTERIAN.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—STATE OF RELIGION.—The Narrative of the state of religion, sent out by the late meeting of the General Assembly of the C. P. Church, says:—"The aggregate number of our membership is actually larger now than at any former period. Frequent and glorious revivals of religion have been enjoyed by our churches in the Northern States during the past year, and, in many places, large numbers have been added to the churches. The Narrative specifies the following as among the signs of progress: Great advance in giving to sustain the Gospel and the enterprises of the Church; a prominent among the congregations to change the supply system for that of settled Pastors; softening of the asperities excited by the state of the country; increased devotion and consecration in the ministry; and more system and energy in the working arrangements of individual churches, such as Sabbath-schools, prayer-meetings, &c.

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The First Presbyterian Church, O. S., in this city, formerly under the care of the Rev. Dr. Edgar, is about to receive as pastor, Rev. W. G. Brown, for several years past a Chaplain in the hospitals in Washington. Mr. Brown's labors in the chaplaincy have been very efficient and useful.

A THERIAPY PASTORATE.—Rev. John P. Dales, D.D., pastor of the 24 U. P. Church, Philadelphia, recently preached on the 25th anniversary of his settlement. During the quarter of a century, nearly two thousand persons have been added to the communion of the Church, and the amount of contributions to religious enterprises has been between one and two hundred thousand dollars. The Church has furnished thirteen persons for the Gospel ministry.

INTERESTING REVIVAL.—Rev. Mr. Stewart, Pastor at Colerain, Lancaster county, Penna., writes to the Presbyterian:—"We held a series of special services commencing on the 6th of June, and continuing nearly two weeks. The pastor had the assistance of the Rev. A. A. Hodge, of Allegheny, and Rev. Jonathan Cross, of Baltimore; also a number of the neighboring ministers. God's Spirit was present and in great power from the beginning. Professing Christians were aroused, and sinners were awakened. As the results of this revival, one hundred and thirty-seven were added to the church on profession of their faith, and sat down yesterday for the first time at the table of the Lord. Of these sixty-two were baptized. About thirty are heads of families. Their ages range from fourteen to sixty, or seventy. A profound impression has been made upon the entire community, and numbers are yet inquiring the way.

SUSPENSION FROM THE MINISTRY.—The Stated clerk of the Presbytery of Indianapolis, O. S., advertises that, on the 14th of June, Rev. David Stevenson, of said Presbytery, was suspended from the exercise of his functions as a minister of the Gospel in the Presbyterian Church, and from the privileges of membership in that Church, on the charge of unministerial and unchristian conduct in several specifications."

REFORMED DUTCH.

EVANGELIZATION.—The Dutch Reformed Church supported fifty-six benevolent students during the last year. These, added to those students who support themselves, must give this Church seventy-five or a hundred young men in course of preparation for the ministry. Fourteen of these recently graduated at the seminary, all except three of whom have charges engaged. In 1764, the first English preaching ever heard by a Dutch Reformed congregation, as their own service, was held in the Old Middle Church, New York, in the building now used as the post-office. During the year this Church has had sixty-four Home Missionaries preaching at seventy-five missions. These missions received 928 members; they have 58 Sabbath-schools, and 5300 scholars. Its Church building fund amounts to \$8600. Complaint is made that this cause is not sufficiently supported.

GERMAN REFORMED.

GOING FORWARD.—We have looked over the G. R. Messenger's report of the proceedings of St. Paul's Classis, a body whose geographical position is in this State, and west of the mountains. It appears to be well alive to the work of home evangelization, the arrangement of the missionary work within its own bounds forming the chief part of the proceedings reported. Four additional ministers have been received to the Classis during the last year, all of whom are successfully engaged in their missionary work. Two new charges are reported as being sustained, and have been applied to the Classis for pastors. Mr. J. W. Ebberhouse was licensed and ordained, and stationed as missionary at Titusville. Appropriations were made in aid of sixteen mission charges, and every pastor was directed to preach to his congregation in behalf of domestic missions. The matter of Sabbath school instruction was taken up, and measures were taken to bring it, in the character of its teaching and library, in full harmony with the standards of the G. R. church. It was also resolved "that the pastors and officers of the various churches of this Classis be earnestly requested to see to it, that at least one of our various Church papers be taken in each family, and that each congregation report the result of its efforts in this important direction to the next annual meeting of this Classis."

We also notice much the same spirit of christian and Church energy in the proceedings of the Lebanon Classis. Arrangements were made to occupy new fields in the coal regions—among them Mahonoy city and Shenandoah city. One mission Church reported itself sustaining, and another had its appropriation reduced, with the significant intimation that it ought to have made a similar report. Besides urging the circulation among the people of Church periodicals, it was also joined upon the pastors to preach upon the subject. Strong ground was taken for giving a Church time to Sabbath school instruction.

EPISCOPAL.

BISHOP POTTER AND HIS CLERGY.—Four pamphlets, and we know not how many more, are on the eye of publication from Episcopalian clergymen in this city in reply to Bishop Potter's Pastoral. The Rev. Dr. Tyng leads off with one, Dr. Canfield with another, Dr. Muhlenberg follows with a third, and Dr. John Cotton Smith with a fourth. Dr. Tyng's pamphlet is published by the Protestant Episcopal Clerical Association, composed of some forty of the clergy, all of whom agree in denouncing the Bishop's Pastoral as contrary to the laws of the church, as to the spirit of the gospel.—New York Observer.

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL AT WEST PHILADELPHIA closed its annual session week before last. The public exercises of the occasion were highly interesting, consisting chiefly of a sermon from Rev. Phillips Brooks, "in his best vein," and a peculiarly solemn address to the graduating class, by Right Rev. Bishop Lee, of Delaware. Of the last, the Spectator Recorder says:—"Its key-note was struck in the expressive phrase, which ought to be a motto over the doors of every Divinity School:—LET YOUR WORK BE YOUR WAGES." His touching reference to those saintly men, Drs. MAY and VAUGHAN,

under whose wise teaching and holy influence the class had been largely trained, seemed to envelop them, and the audience also, with an atmosphere of hallowed and purifying sadness. We can think, amidst imperfect human beings, of none who are more worthy of the imitations of our dear young brothers, than those admirers of the men. We know that their memory and their example are affectionately cherished by them; and our prayer for them is that they may follow these honored teachers as they followed Christ." On the day following Commencement Bishop Stevens ordained seven candidates to the Diaconate, and five to the Priesthood.

METHODIST.

METHODISM IN BALTIMORE.—The Methodists of Baltimore are just now making an earnest effort in behalf of city evangelization, through their own denomination. A correspondent of the Advocate and Journal says, that the Preachers' meeting "has been engaged for several weeks in preparing a plan of appointments for street preaching. The printed plan is now issued, and various prominent places in the city have been selected as points for out-door religious services. The names of nearly all the stationed ministers of the Methodist Church in the city, with a few ministers of other denominations, are on the plan. Rev. Thomas Sewall, D. D., held the first service at Monument Square on last Sabbath afternoon. The appearance of such men in the public squares preaching the Gospel cannot fail to have a beneficial effect." In addition to this, several of the churches have united in employing a city Missionary, and have secured the services of a preacher who is said to have previous had a reputation for efficient labor. Since the close of the rebellion, preachers from Virginia have come in and confederated with men of like sympathies, and are threatening litigation for the possession of churches claimed as the property of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The threat produces but little alarm.

WILMINGTON, DEL.—The wealthy Methodists of this city, following the example of brethren in other cities, have struck out for a "first class" church, with church edifice to match. The estimated expense of the enterprise comes up to the neighborhood of \$150,000. The correspondent of the Advocate and Journal introduces a description of the intended pile with the clever remark, "The gentlemen thus associated started out with the idea that no structure that human hands can build can be too good for Methodism to occupy."

HOW TO PRESERVE CONVERTED CHILDREN TO THE CHURCH.—This topic was a subject of discussion in the late meeting of the New York State M. E. S. S. Convention in Albany. Reference was made to the large number of youth as well as adults received on probation, who never graduate to full membership; though the opinion seemed generally to be that a greater proportion of those converted in childhood continue faithful than of those converted in adult years. The conclusion, in which there was great unanimity, was, that the children should be put into classes, kept there, and carefully watched over by a pastor and leaders, and that if this is faithfully done there will be comparatively little danger of the apostasy of converted children.

INDEPENDENT METHODISTS.

Another denomination has stepped into the circle of American churches, or rather three organizations of little note have consolidated themselves into one which is likely to make its voice heard. Our readers will remember that we mentioned, a week or two since, that a convention of ministers and members of the "Protestant-Methodist," "Reformed Methodist," and "Independent Methodist" Churches was about being held in Cleveland, with a view to consolidation on the basis of Congregational in distinction from Methodist Episcopal church government. The Convention was held according to appointment, and consisted of one hundred and twenty-five members from all parts of the land. One said, "I am from the rising of the sun—from down east of Cape Cod." Another immediately rose and said, "Brother Moderator, I am from the setting of the sun—from beyond west of the Father of Waters." We copy from a correspondent of the Boston Recorder a sufficiently glowing account of the spirit and results of the meeting—an account which we suppose takes its hue from the writer's exultation in the expected moral support of Congregational principles, from another respectable organization on that basis. The writer says:—"Union, union on the basis of religious liberty and the independence of the churches from ecclesiastical control, was the one thought and purpose. The discussions were plain, frank and free. Every one had his say, out and out. When the hour came for the final vote on the great question, I was present. The scene was worthy the painter's or the poet's art. Could these Methodists give up their peculiarities for which they have lived and suffered for years, and form a new, and one, denomination of Independent Methodists? Yes, they could and did. The vote was cordially unanimous, not a single dissent, not one neutral, and taken standing. 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