# THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND

GENESTE EVANGELIST. A Beligio 100 ad Family Newspaper IVER INTEREST OF THE

Constituti gel Presbyterian Church. PUBLICE D EVERY THURSDAY,

AT THE PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE. 1334 Ohestnut Street, (2d story,) Philadelphia. Rev. John W. Mears, Editor and Publisher. Bev. B. B. Hotchkin, Editor of News and

Family Departments. Bev. C. P. Bush, Corresponding Editor Rochester, N. Y.

# American Presbuterian.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1865.

CONTENTS OF INSIDE PAGES.

SECOND PAGE-THE FAMILY CIRCLE : The Song of the Signboard—The Clouded Intellect —Throw dat Coat Away—A Good Example. For the Little Folks: Familiar Talks with the Children—"Massa Cobb" and "Uncle Josh." Rural Economy: Stripping a Country of its Trees —Horses at Pasture.

THIRD PAGE-EDITOR'S TABLE :

Brainerd's "Life of John Brainerd, and his Succes-sor as Missionary to the Indians of New Jersey"-Pamphlets and Periodicals-Literary Items, Foreign Pamphics and a subscription and American Miscellaneous: Nothing to Lean Upon—Is a Horse Better than a Man?

SIXTH PAGE-CORRESPONDENCE :

Civil Law and the Traitors-Death Gain-Away from Home-"Upper" Pennsylvania. Miscellancous: "It's the Only Day I have"-The American Women-The Sabbath-school Superin tendent-An Irishman's Description of Ireland-The Church of Christ. SEVENTH PAGE-RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE:

Presbyterian-Baptist-Society of Friends-Episco-pal-Seamen-Mathodist-The Church General-Missionary-Freedmen-Miscellaneous-Foreign

### OUR CHURCH.

There has been laid on our table a copy just issued of the "Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America : With an Appendix. Vol. xiv. A. D. 1865." It contains the annual exhibit of the statistics of our Church and the account of the transactions of its supreme judicatory held last May in the city of Brooklyn. It is a large and fair pamphlet of 229 pages, containing, with its usual perspicuous arrangement, the customary information, together with certain columns in the tables of statistics of individual churches, which now appear for the first time. There is a column for the "Unknown"---i. e. for those who are lost to the knowledge of the Session-and another for the Sabbath-school scholars. The contributions to the Ministerial Relief Fund have also a special column; so also one each for "Congregational" and "Miscellaneous" purposes. These last were needed to give any just view of the benevolence of the churches, and for the want of them, we have heretofore had very partial views of them. We have also been unjust to ourselves in not offering material for our comparative liberality as a denomination, as many other churches have uniformly and properly swelled their totals by all that is

meencam

New Series, Vol. II, No. 32.

Genesee Evangelist, No. 1003.

Zesbyterian.

#### very much decreased. The neglect of this 1 a wise adaptation of himself, he may, if he duty by the Sessions is a serious wrong, will, make himself felt as not simply the and one which Presbyteries should always

take in hand for correction. It is one which will seldom occur under the administration of an indefatigable Stated Clerk of Presbytery. Our own connection is with a Presbytery which has the non-reporting \* placed against only two churches, and those are ones which are practically extinct. Every other Session reports. Our Stated Clerk writes to them, and if they are dilatory, he follows them up until they do it.

Of the matter of the Minutes properi. e. the proceedings of the Assembly, we have already furnished a pretty full account, only these two conditions to make himself and given expression of our satisfaction felt by the community at large as a man with their high-toned devotional, catholic, wholesomely denominational, evangelistic, and patriotic character. We only add here that it is refreshing to see how exclusively this eleven days' session of our highest church court partook of this character. Questions of church polity elicited almost no discussion. Of judicial business, only judgment, sense, geniality, kinship with gleam shoots across the Minutes, one

case, reported by the committee as no case. and, as such, silently dismissed. The bulk of the time, the wisdom and the energy of the body was given to plans for the enlargement of religion and holiness in our country and world, through the institutions of our denomination, acting in oneness of purpose with the great Christian family of which we are a part.

## THE COUNTRY PARISH. SOCIAL LIFE

Between the state of society in the town and the purely country neighborhood, there is this important difference : In the first there is a tendency toward the excess, and in the latter, toward the stagnation of the social life. The town is full of excitements: there is always something to bring people into lively intercourse-always something going on. People will never become unsocial simply for the want of occasions to bring them together. In the country the danger of this does exist. Public assemblies, except on the Sabbath for religious worship, are few. Lectures. festivals and entertaiments of various kinds are not brought to them, but if enjoyed at all, must be gotten up by an effort of their own. Even the ordinary visiting interourse of families is attended with effort

A WANT OF THE TIMES. pastor of the church, but an institution in the region occupied by the parish. The country neighborhood has often here and there an educated man, but generally they do not abound. The old adage, "knowledge is power," is as true there as any- by constitutional enactment, upon our stitutional. If we may adopt a term which, where, and the tendency of the public mind church polity, which shall enlarge the at one signal point in our history, was used is to look up confidingly to the man who is supposed to possess it. When to this is added the circumstance, that the pastor's after them, and establishing agencies for distinct vocation is to bring the world unreaching them, for which there may no der the influence of truth, righteousness and be liberty, but there is certainly no progoodness, he needs, (the enabling of the vision in our present ecclesiastical system, Divine Spirit being taken for granted,) Just now we have nothing very denite

PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1865.

to propose ; we have not in our own mind any very clear conception in detail of what can without whose presence among them there be done. Plans are the offspring of need, would be a great social void. The first of and the first step toward any improvement these indispensable conditions is that he is a well settled conviction that the need of should, step by step, but with ever advanc- it is real. If it shall become the earnest ing degree, obtain their confidence that he sentiment of the church that something answers their expectations from such a must be done, we have no fear but modes but as yet the great mind of the church their State Convention, and that in fact man. They must find in him knowledge, | will reveal themselves.

humanity, faithfulness in duty, and sin- polity are unquestionably of Divine apcerity of profession. The second is, that pointment. These cannot be set aside or among them he should bring himself into overridden by ecclesiastical legislation. sympathy with all the fair interests of society, But the modes of carrying them out propinclusive especially of that now under conerly make up the details of church constisideration. There is a mean for his public | tutions. In these an adaptation to the life, between the extremes alike fatal to his state of the world and the characteristics social influence-that of an intermeddler of men, is to be sought, and new developwith the public affairs, and that of profesments of the latter may suggest to the sional exclusiveness; and the finding of wisdom of the church corresponding imthis mean is all-important to his usefulness provements in the former. This, we bein the social world around him. The in- lieve, is the view of church polity taken quiry for it may often be an embarrasing by all Christian denominations. Rome one, but it can only be met by good sense itself is hardly an exception. Religious of his own, and, as in every other case of orders, for example, were once novelties embairasment, making earnest request for which were engrafted upon the Romish light from God. But when settled in the system, their adaptation to the ends sought right relation to society, he can strike his roots deep, and will find himself invested mus of the papacy.

with amazing power over the social proclivities and customs around him.

The drift of these remarks is towards this anti-religious feature of our times, indiffer- a surrender of the Scriptural ordinance of know what the Washington Government point-that the rural church, led on by its ence, was rare. Among all the people, official ministerial parity. Has our Lord thinks of all this-whether these men are pastor, is doing a good work by promoting good and bad; religion was regarded as a such social gatherings and public festivities solemn necessity. Many were agitated by appointment, that the man who goes with were conquered, and are now to accept and as are wholesome to good morals and the the question, To what form of Church order bibles and tracts from house to house, who not to dictate terms, and whether the pringeneral interests of society, especially the shall I attach myself? but the alternative ministers to suffering want, who prays with ciples for whose sake so much treasure and young. Take for example the church fes- between religion and irreligion was hardly the dying and with those who are mourn- blood have flowed, have really been carried, tivals of one kind and another for raising felt to be an open one. Hence we see the ing their dead, who enters the hovel or the or whether this long war has been a mere money for church purposes : the degrading leading features of our polity adapted to prison to speak of Jesus, and pardon, and game of slaughter, simply to see which side excuse generally made for them, that they this state of things. Fortunately they heaven, carries immensely greater power if of the tally stick counts up the most are the most available device for meeting are, we believe we may say without ex- he goes in the character of an official minis- notches. some pecuniary necessity, is the lowest ception, adapted to any probable state ter of the grace of God? Friends are seldom within walking disview of their benefit. In view of the two of things in such a world as this, as far as Or shall we have a lay ministry-an facts stated a while since-that the social they go, so that new exigencies which have nature, unless it has been so long cribbed arisen require no abrogation of any part of that its elasticity has been lost, will somethem, and no change in them. Experience how break out, and also that, when too has not only proved their wisdom for a much suppressed, it is apt to stagnate-we given period, but their permanent excelwould seriously prefer an occasional resort | lence-we repeat, as far as they go. The those without, and, in various ways, bring to the festival plan for raising any given want of which we speak, is not a want of the moral power of the one to bear upon amount, even if the same labor would have change; but of increased facilities for the the other? secured it by ordinary solicitation. We power of those means of grace already prowould try by these, by Sabbath-school picvided for. nics, by home manufactured concerts, plain Our constitution provides well for a as their performances might be, by public learned, judicious, and holy ministry, for celebrations, and gatherings of various the pulpit, for good pastoral care of a flock, kinds, to bring people together-to bring for a bench of elders for the service of the together those who, in the exuberance of the congregation, for family worship, and for various other services for an associated relisocial nature will find each other somehow. and somewhere, in a society and scene gious community. It seen is to be assumed which answers all their reasonable social that all these spiritual advantages will be wants, without injury to their minds or sought, and it presents our churches to the morals; and to bring out those who are ininquirer after a church, as one which, by clining to live too much within themselves. the simplicity with which it carries out the and to loose their neighborly interest in Scriptural doctrines for church order and others. We would have the religious worship, by its compactness of system and power of the community so identify its combining spiritual liberty with efficiitself with these objects, that they will be ency, is well adapted to the edification of a restrained within its sanctions, and carried religious community. This last result, the on with respect for its scruples respecting state of the times suggested as the main the character of worldly recreations. We thing sought by an ecclesiastical system. would, as we have said, have the influence There was little in the general condition of of the church felt as giving mould to the things, to start the inquiry, What provision social enjoyments of the people, and thus should be made for looking up the world? relieved of the prejudice of a supposed an- Any one who, at this day, and well wakened tagonism to those enjoyments. up to the religious characteristics of the age, will read our constitution with refer-

But these efforts are simply spontaneous By the word "times" we do not refer to They lack the church character, the sancthe present instant; it may cover the pre- tion of a constitutional provision, and cersent half-century. In fact, the want of tain constitutional aids to secure their general which we speak, has been gradually devel- adoption, their uniformity, and their efficioping itself through a generation past. It ency when adopted, of which our system is is, that some provision should be engrafted, now bare. It is true they are not unconscope of gospel ministrations, carrying in a bad sense, they are extra-constitutional. upon our constitution ; so far from it, they tional barriers against them should be refnoved, for there are no such barriers; but that the constitution should distinctly adopt for carrying them on.

What these agencies shall be, is a ques-A few general principles of Church ness to the needs of the case, to have any mitigated rebels who first repudiated their

plans well considered. One of the first questions which comes need to be approached with more prudence than this. The fact crowds itself upon our notice, that, following its work as now laid out, the ministry does not reach the masses of special reference, and under special pledge to a laborious, self-denying life, with poor prospect of worldly compensation, in the overcoming even the persistent non possu- | high-ways and by-ways of humanity? Of course the distinction between such laborers

The working parts of our system were and other ministers could only be one of put into constitutional form when the great employment, for no exigency can demand

#### TERMS.

L'ER1 Per annum, in By Mail, \$3. Per annum, in advance: By Mail, 83. By Carrier, 83 50. Fifty cents additional, after three months. Clubs.—Ten or more papers, sent to one address, payable strictly in advance and in one remittance: By Mail, 82 50 per annum. By Carriers, 83 per annum. Ministers and Ministers' Widows, \$2 in ad-

two months

8ix The following discount on long advertisements, in-serted for three months and upwards is allowed:-Over 20 lines, 10 per cent off; over 50 lines, 20 per cent.; over 100 lines, 33% per cent. off.

#### WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH TRAI-**TORS AND REBELLIOUS STATES?**

Nothing, seems to be the impression of those to whom the question relates. And for ourselves, we confess to some anxiety, not to say uneasiness, to learn whether the event is to justify the arrogance with which they carry themselves toward the Government and toward the principles for the support of which its friends have perilled and them home to people who will not come There is nothing in them which infringes suffered so much. When we read such accounts as we this day publish from North Carolina. we see norming to remind us that What is wanted is, not that any constitu- those men so lately came sneaking out from an utter defeat in an attempt at revolt, or that their fortunes and lives are at the mercy of the Government to which they them, extend them, and provide agencies dictate terms of re-union. They seem to

take it for granted that the questions at issue are in their own hands. They talk of tion for thought. To a limited extent it emancipation, or the restoration of slavery has been considered, and every now and to the status which it held before the war, then some suggestion has been thrown out, as a question which is to be decided by has not bent itself with sufficient earnest- the whole matter rests with them, the unconnection with the Government, and then, with a series of atrocities unparalleled in up is, Shall there be any radical change in civilized warfare, fought for its destruction the conditions of the ministerial office? | until completely conquered by our crushing No one point suggested by the subject will victories-that it rests with them to say whether they will condescend to place their State once more in union with the Republic, or maintain an independence of it. In Virginia things are still worse, and no betmen. Shall there be simply an enlargement | ter in most of the Southern States, where of the sphere of lay effort, or shall the minis- amnestied rebels, and rebels with halters try be enlarged by bringing forward and still about their necks, evidently regard ordaining men who have not the usual Provisional Governors as mere conveniences literary and theological qualifications, with for getting up State Constitutions on the basis of an almost unrestricted rebel suffrage, and where, in some cases, Provisional Governors themselves seem to have no higher view of the object of their appointment.

Whenever the time comes to enlighten the public, it would be some satisfaction to put this honor upon the ministry of his to be made to find out the fact that they Thus far, we have not seen one act of judgment executed upon rebels as such, one punishment of treason because it is treason, or one sentence for crime against country, establish worship, speak to the the Government as a Government carried people, warn and exhort, distribute, as out, or even proclaimed. Four persons of occasion arises, the help of the church to | inferior importance have been hung. on the charge of offence against individuals, and another is about to be tried for starving prisoners, and will very likely share the same fate. But we yet remain in profound ignorance whether treason, as such, is to meet with any judicial retribution-whether one govermental act is to be carried through which will speak any danger to the haters of our Republic in repeating their attempt to destroy it, whenever they can ripen another conspiracy. We would not have an impatient public opinion force our Government into impulsive action. We can easily conceive of reasons why the ends of public justice can be better promoted by some delay, and by silence of purpose in the meantime. We are now in the fourth month since the entire disarming of the physical power of the rebellion struck the danger of retaliation, and military strategy, out of the causes for hesitancy of justice. Perhaps others exist which it is not yet proper for the public to know. If so, we are willing to wait. We have kept up a resolute purpose to preserve faith in the administration, but as yet we walk only by faith. If we begin to feel anxious for a little sight. it is not from a sentiment of vindictiveness. We simply want to know whether that lifeprinciple of government, national sovereignty, has been successfully established, or whether we are to have a ten years day be disarmed of her working power, and wrangle over the doctrine of State rights, with another rebellion at the heels of it. For the sake of the future we wish to know which has whipped-the Government or the insurgents. THE TRUE DOCTRINE.-in a single sentence, the Scotch correspondent of the Presbyterian gives a sound comment upon the latest sensation in the criminal line on the other side of the water. "The case." he says, "is already re-DECIDEDLY TRUE.-The New York ported across the ocean, no doubt, of a Times prefaces an account of the recent most astounding crime-a medical practitioner poisoning his mother-in-law and last page), with the remark, "Satan wife, and making light of his situation up must be abroad." We congratulate the to the very time of his conviction. Within these two days he has confessed. We have, however, heard of it before; Pity for all such men is due; but care against them, is not to be lost."

contributed for home support, and for many religious objects outside of the range of strictly church benevolence. The footing of the statistical tables is as follows :---

NUMERICAL.			
Synods,			`23
Presbyteries,			108
Ministers,			1694
Licentiates,			122
Candidates,	• *		187
Churches,	•		1479
Added on examinatio	n, .		6,685
Do. on certificate, .			5,325
Whole number,			143,645
Unknown,			5,152
Baptisms, adults, .		•	2,336
LIII8IIUS, .	÷.		3,360
Sabbath-school memb	ership,		112,781
FINANCIAL.			
For General Assembly	7	•	\$7,059
Tome Missions.			94,507
Foreign Missions, .		•	112,296
Education,	•	•	36,952
Publication.			46.305
Ministerial Relief,	· · ·		4,256
Congregational,		. 1,	264,667
Miscellaneous,	•	•	501,151
Total,		. 2,	067,183

These tables, as compared with those of last year, exhibit a gain of one Synod, (Tennessee,) three Presbyteries, fifty Ministers, twelve candidates for the ministry, thirty-seven churches, 205 additions of communicants on examination, 971 by certificate, 5571 in the total of the church membership, and 243 adult baptisms. The only points in the numerical department in which there has been a falling off, are those of licentiates, in which there is a decrease of thirteen, and infant baptisms, of which 332 less are reported. In the matter of pecuniary contributions, it is impossible, on account of the new arrangement mentioned above, to use the tables as a basis of calculation, even in the departments heretofore reported, because many sums contributed, not strictly for our church enterprises, but for cognate objects. which were last year reported under such heads as "Home Missions," "Education." &c., are now removed to that of "Miscellaneous." Probably the only exception to this is in the case of Foreign Missions, the community into the feeling that the where the figures of the present report are church is one of the social necessities of \$112.296. against \$98,529 in that of last the community. True, we are speaking of year-a gain of \$13,767. The tables of one of the lesser missions of the church in the present year, for the first time in our the world, but, in view of its influence history, probably show almost exactly what upon the higher work, it is one which we have done for the benevolent enter- should not be least wisely performed. prises of our own church-i. e. so far as the churches have reported; and it is not influence upon the power of the church, as the number of non-reporting churches is as we are now speaking of. Generally, by combination easy.

tance; ladies are not always at leisure or in trim to receive company, and the trouble of making appointments and providing means of going back and forth, is felt as an offset to the enjoyment of a social dinner or tea. Hence comes that tendency to the stagnation of the social life mentioned-a tendency which, without some counteracting influence, would make people worse than unsocial-would make them unsympathizing, selfish, churlish.

But this is not the normal condition of our natures. We have social natures, and they will break out. This is particularly the case in young life, before unnatural influences have taught people to retire within themselves. and made them cold to neighborly associations. And if in the community where they live, they have no festivities of the moral and wholesome class, upon which this social nature can expend itself, they will most assuredly accept vicious resorts as the place of fellowship. This is nature -unsanctified nature, the reader may say; and so it is. But it is a nature whose proclivities must be heeded, and made the basis of expedients by those who seek the moral and spiritual welfare of the subjects of it. There is another consideration which leads also to the line of policy which we wish to approach. In the strictly rural parish, the influence of a church, if it is properly husbanded and wisely put forth, can be made the leading social influence in the neighborhood. There may be instances where the antagonistical influences have obtained a supremacy which is for the present invincible, but what we just said holds as a general rule. But that the church may make itself thus felt, it must be known as something more than a Sabbath assembly and a people whose interests lie beyond the world. It must turn its sunny side toward all the better things of humanity, and, by a cordial sympathizing interest in the real needs of the natures of men, bring The bearing of the pastor has a mighty

and the second second

There is also a higher sphere of social life for the country parish, which is more ence to the facts stated, will be surprised to exclusively in the care of the church. We find how bare it is of provision for that outhave not room here to speak of #: we may side work, which is now felt to be the great do so hereafter. work of our Lord's Church in the world.

Our church is not slumbering over this NOT IMPROBABLE .--- We notice the work. She is as well awake to it as any following item in some of the dailies: Christian denomination, and her achieve-"A Western paper reports a combinaments in it do not suffer by any comparison tion among the Eastern paper-dealers to which any part of the church general has raise the prices, by working half-time." to offer. She has her part in a society for It would be a satisfaction if the men heathen evangelization whose missions belt who control the market in this and the globe. She keeps comparatively good other articles indispensable to human progress and comfort, would tell us at pace with the march of emigration in our once how many more wrenches they inown country. And, what is more to the fend to give the screw. For once, we purpose of this article, she is doing no would like to look the worst in the face, small work, by tract colportage, city misinstead of being killed by slow torture. sions, mission schools, and country school Seriously, we see in the extortions now house preaching, to affect the vast multipracticed, the result of the running out tudes-the majority in many cities and of small manufactories, and the absorbing of work in a limited number of mam. | townships-who live within sound of the the least gratifying of their features, that such, over the social life in such a parish moth establishments, thus rendering church-going bell, and yet live without a indeed, we recollect that something of for the public, that needs protection church, and without religion.

order of unordained evangelisers to go among our neglected districts in city and

Now and then we have heard a whispered suggestion respecting Deaconesses, or a class of female workers who may answer to the Joannas and Susannas of the time of our Lord's ministry, and those of whom Paul wrote as laboring with him in the gospel. The suggestion is not likely to meet with an over-ready favor. The system of a class of females consecrated especially to the service of the church, has been deeply corrupted in the hands of the papacy, and it is quite likely that our just jealousy of beginnings of evil, may produce in the minds of our people a revolt from it as the entering wedge to an isolation from the domestic relations and a convent life. Hence the inquiry is a delicate one; but, when we see the amazing power of gentle, silent, and from-house-to-house labor on the part of many of the lady members of our churches, it will come up, whether this power might not be vastly increased, by calling into this field those whose works approve them, sustuin them, and giving to them an organic relation to our work. This much at least is certain: should the church reject every system of effort which has not, at some time and in some hands, been pushed to the point of corruption, she would tolie in the world hand-bound and useless.

We had intended, in this connection, to aise the question whether some provision should not be made to bring the gospel and the sympathy of the church into more immediate connection with the human interests of men, and the common affairs of life? But we have said enough for once.

horrible murder in Hartford (see our Times upon having made the discovery. the kind was told in Job's day.