

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1865.

THE FINANCES OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

We learn from a circular dated at the Mission House, Boston, August 10th, that the receipts of the Board for eleven months of the year ending August 31, were but a trifle over \$330,000.

We commend this matter to the prayerful consideration of our readers. Although it must be regarded as exceedingly unfortunate that so large a proportion of the contributions is thus delayed until the last moment, yet it is better late than never.

THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE FOR THE FREEDMEN.

The Nation, in replying to a correspondent, thus disposes of the objection to granting the right of suffrage to the freedmen, on the ground that the Northern States are unprepared to grant the same privilege to the colored population residing within their own limits.

We can go on a step further than this, however, and affirm that even if there was not one State at the North in which a colored man was allowed to vote, the North would still be justified in asking that all persons disfranchised under such a rule at the North would be, by the census of 1860, 237,218; the total number of those who are disfranchised by this rule at the South is 4,201,000.

MR. JESSUP'S LETTER.—We have given the letter of Mr. Jessup—well known to most of our readers as the missionary of the American Board at Beirut—long as it is, entire. It will be found upon an inside page.

IN TYPE.—The letter of another correspondent at the Saratoga Convention; letter from Rev. E. P. Hammond, &c.

THE PRICE OF PAPER. A WORD TO MANUFACTURERS.

After a brief period of decline, the price of paper has again risen, and that more rapidly than it fell. The sheet on which this is printed cost us fourteen and a half cents a pound; for the same quality we are now asked sixteen and a half cents.

But do unscrupulous manufacturers forget that by such arbitrary courses they are preparing for themselves a most sweeping and terrible retribution? Do they not know that they are hurling at the people a weapon like that of the Australian warrior, which may come back to the very spot from which it started?

HOW THE WORLD LOOKS AT IT.

The last General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church was held in the borough of Washington, in South-western Pennsylvania. During its sessions, the following just notice of a blessed event appeared in the Washington Press, a local secular paper.

It will not happen often, perhaps, in the history of our village, that we shall see assembled a body of Christian gentlemen, representing so extended a constituency, and holding so large an influence, as that now holding its sessions in this place.

We sincerely believe that the use of tobacco is a crying national sin, second only to slavery and drunkenness, and that it will not be abated while the religion of the land tolerates such uncleanness.

THE WEEKLY REVIEW.

The London Weekly Review, Presbyterian, under the editorship of Peter Bayne, has become the London and Edinburgh Weekly Review, and devotes a large space to the discussion of Scottish topics.

ANOTHER REBUKE TO SABBATH DESECRATION.

It is a fact which seems to have been generally overlooked, that the laying of the new Atlantic Cable was commenced by the Great Eastern on the Sabbath.

On Sunday, the 30th, the day on which the Cuba called at Queenstown, a brief dispatch was received, announcing that, 470 miles had been paid out—150 being the work of Saturday, the 29th—leaving 320 miles to be done on Sunday.

News of our Churches.

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The new pastor has been very handsomely received and welcomed by his people, and we cannot but hope that the noble church, which has so long struggled and patiently waited for its time, enters to-day upon a career of the greatest prosperity and power.

AMENDE.—Rev. Francis R. against whom some reports of intemperate habits have been circulated in Western New York, is believed to be wholly innocent of such charges by those who have investigated the matter, and he is now settled among an intelligent people who thoroughly satisfied themselves of his innocence before employing him.

REV. AUSTIN P. STOOKWELL, a member of the late graduating class of the Union Theological Seminary of New York, has accepted and taken the pastoral charge of the church of Pleasant Plains, Dutchess County, New York.

REV. J. M. ALEXANDER, a licentiate of Maui, Sandwich Islands, was ordained by San Jose Presbytery, at San Leandro, Cal. Sermon by Rev. E. G. Lock with.

REV. G. L. FOSTER has given notice to the Presbyterian Church in Coldwater, Michigan, of his design to soon cease his labors among them, giving as a reason their failure to build a new church.

RECENT ARRIVALS inform us that friends of Dr. Colenso, Bishop of Natal, had presented him with a sum of £3,000, raised by about six hundred subscribers, partly to make up for the loss of his Episcopal income and partly to testify to his services to the cause of free religion in England.

CORRECTION.—In the list of collections for the Ministerial Relief Fund published in our last number, the church at Cherry Valley, New York, who have been credited with \$19 40—instead of \$10 40.

AT ALEXANDRIA the cholera had declined, not, however, before carrying Mrs. Lansing, wife of the American missionary, Rev. JULIAN LANSING of U. P. mission to Egypt.

REV. DR. GURLEY, of Washington, announced to his congregation that he had declined to accept the Secretaryship of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, and would continue his ministerial labors as heretofore.

GREAT OPEN AIR MEETING AT CAPE MAY.

What would you think of a religious gathering of two thousand persons on a Sabbath afternoon to hear addresses and sing hymns on the lawn of Congress Hall? We attended such a gathering on last Sabbath afternoon, and it did our hearts good to see the wide spread interest which was awakened.

At 5 o'clock Mr. A. G. Cattell, the worthy President of the Corn Exchange Bank of Philadelphia, called Rev. Alex. Henry to the chair, who commenced the exercises by reading the first hymn on the programme. A neatly printed programme containing the hymns to be sung, with the order of exercises had been distributed far and wide.

Then came the second hymn, "Jesus loves me! this I know," which was also sung inspiringly. Then an address by the Hon. Mr. Casby, of Newark, N. J. He was no novice in speaking, but said he was better used to facing a jury than a crowd of Sabbath-school children and their friends.

After alluding to the fact that prayer to a Supreme Being seemed to form a part of all religion, good or bad, throughout the world, he passed on to the second division, Thanksgiving, which was generally expressed by Song.

THE BATHING is certainly delightful and invigorating. This is the only attraction to Yours, G. W. M.

THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

This body met at Halifax, June 27th, and took unanimous and decisive action on the proposed union with the Presbyterian Synod of New Brunswick, as follows:—

"Approve of the report and subsequent proceedings of the Committee on union with the Synod of New Brunswick, and adhere to our previously expressed desire that the union be consummated without unnecessary delay; instruct ministers to bring the matter before their congregations as they may see cause; invite expressions of opinion from Presbyteries and Sessions, and appoint next meeting of the Synod on the 1st of June, at the City of St. John, N. B., in the expectation that we will then be prepared to arrange for the consummation of the union."

There are ninety-two ministers and ninety-seven charges, many of them embracing two churches, in the Synod of the Lower Provinces. The contributions of the churches for Foreign Missions during the past year, were £1580, Home Missions £457, Education £194. There are vested funds for the latter object amounting to £8000, within a fraction.

last in your memory when you are grown up men and women. Let me tell you an incident that occurred in one of the smaller streets of Boston, in one of those allies where the vicious and the poor are crowded—not vicious because they are poor, but rather poor because they are vicious—an organ man was playing his tunes, when a poor woman with a bucket on her arm stopped, and listened, and wept. Forgetting her errand, she stood weeping and spell-bound.

This music that you sing refines and elevates your souls. I have heard every variety and style of music, all that can be heard in the old world and the new. Two years ago to-day I stood in the great St. Isaac's chapel in St. Petersburg and listened to the grand chants of the Russian church. I have heard the Gregorian chants in the cathedrals of Italy; but, grander than all I have stood in Westminster Abbey at midnight, and listened, with rapt devotion, to the glorious chants of the Church of England, rendered in the very highest style of art.

Next came an inspiring hymn to the tune of "Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom," "We are Marching to Heaven the Home of the Blessed, Singing the Praises of Zion." Then a fine address by Rev. Mr. Sewell, of Baltimore.

Then came the hymn "I want to be an Angel," which was followed by an address by—would you believe it?—BENJ. H. BREWSTER, Esq., one of the prominent leaders of the Philadelphia bar. He said frankly this was new business for him. He was used to addressing grown up children; had never tried to speak to such a throng as this, and what he should say would perhaps be better understood by the adults before him than by the children.

After singing "My Country 'tis of Thee," and the doxology "Praise God from whom all Blessings flow," and a benediction by Rev. Dr. Dickey of Pennsylvania, the crowd dispersed.

I have never seen Cape May so crowded nor so gay. Imagine one thousand persons on a fine afternoon, many of them gorgeously dressed, sitting in the lawn of "the Columbia," listening to the music of the band, and thousands bathing every day. Probably \$25,000 per day is spent for board alone, while for carriage hire, boat hire, &c., &c., sums almost incalculable slip away so easily that we almost begin to believe that the chief end of man at Cape May is to spend money.

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mercy of Almighty God in the restoration of peace in the United States, and adore the heavenly wisdom which has so controlled and restrained the wrath of man and the horrors of war, as to furnish the occasion for the abolition of African slavery, and for most noble manifestations of Christian liberality and benevolence.

REV. A. M. STEWART IN THE OIL REGIONS.

PETROLEUM CENTRE, VENANGO CO., PA. August, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER MEARS:—Health, pleasure, curiosity and on benevolent schemes intent, have brought me for a ten days' sojourn to this new centre for human assemblage, hopes, cupidities, successes, and sore disappointments.

Treasures of oil have been kept hidden away in this most unlikely place, until fully needed in the world's advancement. Such has been the Lord's plan to hide away treasures in unlikely places until the times demanded their use, when they are developed by properly directed human skill and energy.

Many things here remind me of long familiarities in camp-life—the rude, hasty, irregular structures for dwellings and business, crowds of men, modes of living, with unsettled conditions generally. No one yet conversed with has come to this region with any thought or desire of making here a permanent home.

If business ever deserved the appellation "LOTTERY," it is that of the oil proper. One man, or company of men, sinks his shaft five hundred feet, and the pent up gases beneath immense rock strata, throw out his tools to the surface and after them a stream of oil, yielding from one hundred to a thousand barrels per day.

"Rich territory." "Paying wells." "Profitable stocks," constitute the mother tongue. Even excited speculators will laugh at the exploit of a companion, who becoming too fevered suddenly leaped into a great tank of the element, when a thousand barrels of the greasy liquid had to be run out and lost in order to rescue the adventurer.

The yield of petroleum along Oil Creek is undoubtedly fast decreasing; and from the sudden failure of the most famous wells, may ere long, cease altogether.

"This Synod thankfully recognize the following resolution on American affairs:—"