

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1865.

AGENTS WANTED.—Agents to canvass for this paper in different sections of the Church are wanted. Especially for this city and vicinity; one for central and western New York, and one for the West and Northwest. Address: AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, 1334 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

NEW PREMIUMS.—For two new subscribers, paying full rates in advance, the new *Life of John Brainerd*, elegantly bound and gilt and postage prepaid.

For three new subscribers: *Life of John Brainerd and Zulu Land*, postage extra.

For thirty-five new subscribers paying full rates in advance, or four clubs of ten each, a FIFTY-FIVE DOLLAR SEWING MACHINE, of Grover & Baker's make.

WE LEARN, with great satisfaction, that Rev. Herrick Johnson, pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, has returned from an extended tour in Europe, with greatly improved health. He resumed his public ministrations to his own people last Sabbath.

ORDINATION OF AN EVANGELIST.—The Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, on the 4th instant, ordained Rev. Geo. L. Shearer. Mr. Shearer continues to occupy the important position of District Secretary of the American Tract Society at Richmond, Va. Our readers are familiar with the welcome initials, "G. L. S."

WHARTON STREET CHURCH.—The first year of the existence of this Church terminated on last Sabbath, the 15th, when 26 new members sat down with the church at the Lord's table, 22 of them celebrating the feast for the first time. All of these were heads of families. 132 have been received during the year; 73 on profession. They have contributed \$3,000 to outside causes. The congregations already make the building too strait. The church is a complete success, and a reward to the faith of the Lord's handmaid who bequeathed her substance to build it, as well as to the faith of those that located and have sustained this enterprise. A glorious mission is before it, in giving the Gospel to the masses. A movement will soon be made to give it a parsonage, which is very needful to complete it as a mission church.

CHURCH NEWS.—EAST AND WEST.—Our readers have not failed to observe that, in general, a large proportion of our items of news of our churches comes from the west. The reason is a very simple one. Western pastors have acquired the good habit of communicating to the papers interesting facts in the condition of their churches: We are sorry to say that, in the east, this is true only to a very limited extent, and it is almost by chance that editors catch up here and there an account which God meant for the use of the church general, and which it is wrong to withhold. We beg brethren to remember that churches live best in each other's sympathies, and to tell us what things God is doing for them. We may be—in fact often are unable to publish anything more than a compendium of such communications, but they all help us in our work.

THE ROYAL ROAD TO CHURCH PROSPERITY.—Rev. Samuel Ward, of Illinois, thus writes to the *Presbytery Reporter*:

"Let it be remembered, however, that our church is not built up mainly by protracted meetings. The Presbyterian Church, perhaps of all others, holds to the observance of the Sabbath for religious purposes, and also to the religion of the family. The church of God was organized in a family. Abraham's piety is developed mainly by family culture—the father as family priest, ministering morning and evening of every day, and the minister of the Gospel, as pastor, laboring faithfully with the families of his charge, either alone, or with an elder, as opportunity offered, during the week; and on the Sabbath, from the sacred desk, giving clear, forcible expositions of doctrine and practice. Once an excitement in the bounds of Pataaskala Presbytery commenced meetings, declaring they would hold on till all the town was converted. They accomplished nothing."

THE PRAYER-BOOK BEFORE THE BIBLE.—Our neighbor of the *Presbyterian*, dropped in at the meeting of the Bishop White Prayer-Book Society, on Sabbath evening, and heard the addresses of several prelates, including the Lord Bishop of Montreal. He says:—"In the course of his dreary sentences the Lord Bishop of Montreal had hinted that he preferred the Prayer-book to the Bible for instruction of the people in religious truth. Bishop Talbot, of Indiana, took up the point, and made a definite, decided utterance on the subject. He said, and begged to make the remark emphatic, that if he was forced to choose between sending the Bible or the Prayer-book to the ignorant and perishing, he would choose the Prayer-book." He reiterated the remark, and enforced it with the reason that the Prayer-book contained "the faith of the Bible," and therefore was to be chosen in preference to the Bible." It is but justice to a portion of the American Episcopal Church, to express our belief that this run-mad churchism meets no other response than loathing in their feelings, and none the less so because it comes from mitred heads.

THE WIRZ TRIAL.

The public have doubtless read with some astonishment the statements of Frechner, and other witnesses for the defence, in regard to the traffic in provisions, clothing, money, lumber, and even real estate, going on in the Andersonville prison pen. One might almost imagine that instead of being a den of horrors worse than the Black Hole of Calcutta or Cawnpore, it was as lively as a bazaar or an agricultural fair. Some might be disposed to impeach the veracity of the witnesses as mere tools of copperhead hatred to our brave and suffering soldiers. We do not think this necessary. Admitting the statements to be true, the enormous sums charged and obtained by these traffickers in the mortal necessities of their fellow prisoners, for their wares, prove just as conclusively as the testimony of a starving man could, the scarcity which prevailed. We understand that the wholesale price of flour in greenbacks was \$70 a sack, probably not less than \$200 a barrel. What it was doled out for to our starving men, we are not told; but we do learn that the price of a single meal was ten dollars in greenbacks. Now had there been an extraordinary amount of greenbacks in the stockade, this exorbitant price might be attributed to an "inflation of the currency;" the same prisoner testified that there were half a million dollars in greenbacks among the prisoners. How he found that out we do not know, but we are arguing upon the supposition of the truth of his testimony, which must, of course, stand or fall together. Allowing twenty-five thousand prisoners in the stockade, there were, at one time, thirty-three thousand, a half a million dollars divided among them would give just twenty dollars apiece, enough to buy each man exactly two meals. If, as afterwards testified by the same witness, this sum of money was in the hands of one-fourth of the prisoners, then this fortunate moiety, with 80 dollars apiece, could have procured eight meals each, while the remaining three-fourths must be content with the scanty and repulsive rations of the rebel commissariat. Could any evidence more effectually substantiate the case of the Government? Have not the defence contributed in this indirect and unforeseen manner most materially, to establish what they essayed to destroy? Even the admission of the same witness, that he actually saw two men cut their own throats, for no other reason that he could see but their starving condition, and the admission of another witness for the defence that pure water was sold in the stockade, could not go further in strengthening the settled conviction of the people as to the character of this lowest and blackest pit of the rebellion.

The Indian rebellion had its Neema Sahib; the Southern pro-slavery rebellion produced a Wirz.

CLINCHING THE NAIL.

The Episcopal Convention, after receiving with open arms every Southern delegate that presented himself, and one that did not, gave final proof of its temper by promptly laying upon the table, by a large majority of the lower house, the following mild expression of patriotic feeling:

Resolved, That this House, in most cordially concurring, as it has done, in the resolution of the House of Bishops appointing a day of thanksgiving for the return of peace to the country and unity to the Church, most respectfully express to the House of Bishops its earnest desire that, in the religious services to be appointed for that day, special thanks be offered to Almighty God for the re-establishment of the national authority over the whole country, and for the removal of the great occasion of national dissension and estrangement to which our late troubles are due.

The press of our loyal city, we perceive, are freely expressing their estimate of the character of this body—probably the least loyal assembly that ever convened in the city of American Independence. Says the *Bulletin*:

"The master mind of the Episcopal Convention now in session in this city is evidently Stephen Elliott, of Georgia. When that eminent Southern prelate issued his famous mandate to the North, 'Silence, if you please, but not one word of censure!' he sounded the key-note to which all the doings of the Convention have been carefully and accurately tuned. The loyal sentiment of the North is as effectually muzzled as it ever was in South Carolina."

The *Inquirer* exclaims:—"Alas for the world when the Church thus gives so uncertain a sound as to the guilt of treason, and the blessings of reasserted law and order under the high authority of our national Government."

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN BRAINERD.—The *Missionary Herald* contains a very appreciative notice of this admirable volume, from which we take the following extract:—"It is a model of religious and missionary biography in respect both to the use of the materials at command and the treatment of its subject. An eloquent and discriminating essay on David Brainerd—whose memory, (though his missionary career was only three years among degraded Indians, and more than a century has elapsed since his death, before his thirtieth birthday,) "is fresh and fragrant wherever Christianity has found a lodgment in any part of the earth"—is a fitting introduction to the memoir of his less known but little inferior brother. For seventy years Mr. Brainerd's grave remained unmarked. The memorial of him, after the lapse of a hundred years, is a pleasing illustration of the earthly resurrection which is granted to many good men whose names are buried in obscurity."

FROM OUR CORRESPONDING EDITOR, SYNOD OF UTTICA.

This body commenced its annual meeting in the First Presbyterian Church of Watertown, on Tuesday evening, 10th instant. Opening sermon by Rev. J. N. McGiffert, of Sauquoit. Rev. B. B. Beckwith, of Gouverneur, was next morning elected Moderator; S. L. Merrill, and J. B. Fisher, Clerks, and business began.

DELEGATES FROM SYNOD OF BUFFALO.

One of the first matters in hand, was an address by Rev. L. M. Miller, D.D., Ogdensburg, as a delegate from the Synod of Buffalo, to bear the fraternal salutations of that body (O. S.) to this; and most gracefully and heartily the delegate performed the task assigned him. It appeared from Dr. Miller's speech that the Synod of Buffalo, at its meeting the week before, in Warsaw, had under consideration the subject of reunion between the two branches of the Presbyterian Churches, and that that body expressed an earnest desire that such a reunion might soon be attained.

They did not pretend to say how this was to be effected, or when; but as doing something toward that end, the Synod of Buffalo appointed two delegates to visit this body, two to the Synod of Genesee; two to the Synod of Geneva, and two to the Synod of Albany. Dr. Miller appeared in the Synod of Utica as such delegate, and was very kindly and courteously received. In response to his graceful and conciliatory speech the Synod adopted an earnest minute, expressing its interest in the subject of reunion; and appointed Rev. Dr. Goertner a delegate, to visit the Synod of Buffalo next year, and convey to it the fraternal salutations of this Synod. It is hoped that by this exchange of courtesies, a good influence may be exerted tending to the result so much desired by a great many in both branches of the Presbyterian Church.

EDUCATION.

In the absence of Dr. Mills, the subject was ably presented by Dr. Goertner, of Hamilton College, seconded by several very earnest speeches by the members of the Synod. The want of a suitable number of candidates for the holy ministry was greatly deplored by all, and among other reasons for this want, it was generally confessed that a lack of adequate support for those who are in the ministry was a manifest and procuring cause. If the church is to have ministers, it must learn to support them.

In this connection it also appeared that many young men are ready to study for the ministry, but cannot do it for want of means. The freshmen class in Hamilton College consists of forty-five members. It might have been sixty, if the necessary aid could have been offered to the applicants for admission. It was felt and acknowledged, that the amount of aid allowed to young men studying for the ministry, by our committee, is not sufficient for the necessities of the present times. Something more must be done to encourage young men of the right stamp in this direction. We allow them but one hundred and twenty, or fifty dollars, a year, while a young man in college or seminary needs twice that sum.

On Wednesday afternoon the Lord's Supper was celebrated; sermon by Rev. Dr. Fowler; administration of the bread by Rev. M. E. Dunham, and of the cup by Rev. J. E. Ford, returned missionary from Syria.

The church in Camden was transferred from the Presbytery of Oswego to the Presbytery of Utica, for the reason that it comes more naturally within the bounds of the latter.

On Wednesday evening the subject of temperance occupied a part of the time, and Foreign Missions the rest, including an address of great excellence from Rev. J. E. Ford, who has been eighteen years a missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. in Syria. He spoke particularly of the very favorable openings now presented for giving the gospel to the Arabic-speaking races, and of the preparation made for that work by that admirable translation of the Scriptures begun by Dr. Eli Smith and recently completed by Dr. Van Dyck. He told also of the wonderful success of the Gospel in Kessab, Aintab, Marash, and other town in that part of the old world. It was a speech of much interest and value, and made a deep impression upon the minds of the audience. Mr. Ford is one of our ablest and most useful missionaries.

A painful interest was added to this part of the meeting, inasmuch as Rev. Homer B. Morgan, an esteemed and able missionary of the American Board, was expected to be present and address us; but instead of that, only a few days before, had come the sad intelligence of his death. His father is an honored elder of the First Presbyterian Church where the Synod met, and from which the missionary went forth on his errand of mercy fourteen years ago. His parents were deeply afflicted by the news of his death. They had hoped to see his face once more, but God had ordained otherwise, and they bow to his will.

After this meeting was closed, we had a pleasant episode, in the way of calling upon Major-General Hooker and his bride, who had arrived in town only the evening before, and were stopping at the house of O. V. Brainerd, Esq., his brother-in-law. The General looks hale, hearty and fifty. His bride is only suitably less in years, but fair, blooming and intelligent. Among her many accomplishments, it is said, she has forty thousand a year.

Speaking with the General, we took pleasure in acknowledging our indebtedness and gratitude to such as he for helping us through our troubles. He said, we were not at all indebted to him—he had only done his duty. "True," we said, "but you were able to do what some of us could not do; we tried however, to sustain you; our clergy were true to the country." "Yes," he said, "but for the clergy, we could not have succeeded." We were glad to find him appreciating the patriotism of the clergy so highly.

On Thursday morning it remained to consider the causes of Publication, Home Missions, Home Evangelization, and the Duties of our Church to the South. On this latter subject it was expected that Rev. Dr. Knox, of Rome, would greatly interest the Synod by a report of his recent visit to East Tennessee; but unfortunately for that interest he had not returned, when we left.

The Synod is to meet next year in Potsdam.

A SAD DELAY.

Rev. Dr. Canfield, of Syracuse, and his esteemed and excellent wife have been sadly delayed, in starting on their foreign tour, by the sickness and death of a beloved son, eighteen years of age. He was a member of Hamilton College, and was expecting soon to return to his studies, but Providence ordered otherwise. He was a member of his father's church, and has gone, it is believed, to the better country. On the afternoon before his death his mother asked him what he would have done with the one hundred dollars which had been given him to take to college. Instantly he replied, "I give twenty-five dollars to my College Society, twenty-five to my brother Neddy, twenty-five to Foreign Missions, and twenty-five to Home Missions."

The funeral was attended by President Fisher and several of his classmates, sincere mourners on the occasion. Dr. Fisher bore testimony to the excellent character of the deceased. He "never knew him to do an exceptional thing."

Dr. and Mrs. Canfield, accompanied by their youngest son, a lad of thirteen, are now expecting to sail for England on the 18th inst, in the *Persia*.

STILL ONWARD.

Hamilton College never had so many students as now; and never before, we believe, so many students having the ministry in view. All this is encouraging; but the alumni, to whom a special appeal has been made, are desired to hurry up the funds necessary to erect a new library building. A beautiful site has been selected for it upon the campus, directly in front of the Chapel, and the books are waiting in peril for their fire-proof home. C. P. B. ROCHESTER, October 14, 1865.

FROM OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, October 1865. If anybody wants a living demonstration of the blasting influence of slavery, he has only to visit Washington about this season of the year. Five years of Northern rule and enterprise have infused some of the spirit of improvement into the place, but it is still susceptible of a higher order of civilization. The chivalry who ruled the country in order to ruin it, were in the habit of looking upon this city as their own, and it bears abundant evidence of their thriftless indolence. When a house was once erected by them, it never received any further attention, but was allowed to become seedy and dilapidated by the wear of time. There was no effort made to improve the primitive condition of the streets, because the lords of the lash were in the habit of being driven around in carriages by their liveried slaves, and they did not, therefore, care much as to the condition of the streets. It would have been a material blessing to this city, if twenty years ago the Southerners had committed the same suicidal act which they did four years ago. As it is, however, there is a prospect that not many years hence, Washington will present that appearance, which ought to characterize the capital of the great Republic.

PREPARATIONS FOR CONGRESS.

The Senate Chamber and the Hall of the Representatives, are already undergoing preparations for the coming session of Congress. As yet there are but few arrivals of Congressmen, and those who are here, are only on a visit. The fall elections in the North are absorbing their time and attention, and there is great anxiety to carry all the elections for the National Union party. A prominent Senator from Massachusetts remarked to me the other evening, that it is more important the Union party should carry the elections this fall than ever before. This, he said, was especially necessary on account of the action of the people of Connecticut relative to colored suffrage.

THE POLICY OF CONGRESS.

It is perhaps premature to hazard any speculations as to the policy of the thirty-ninth Congress. It will, without doubt, be the most important session which has been held for many years. The vexed question of the reconstruction of the late rebellious States, will come up for final settlement. The Southerners will then learn whether or not the policy of President Johnson is the policy of the people of the North. His policy has been so mild and conciliatory as to receive the approbation of the Southern

people of all parties. Even the Democrats of Louisiana, at their late Convention in New Orleans, while they demanded the repeal of the Emancipation Proclamation, and virtually asked the Government of the United States to shoulder the rebel debt, "endorsed the reorganization policy of President Johnson." It is very true, that these gentlemen have no other alternative, but then it looks suspicious that they should be so ready to adopt his policy.

A couple of gentlemen, members of the next Congress, one a Senator and the other a member of the House of Representatives, told me, that in case the National Union party is able to carry the elections in the Northern States this fall, they will then propose the terms upon which the Southern delegation shall be admitted. Those terms will include something more than a mere endorsement of President Johnson's reorganization policy. It will no doubt surprise the Southern gentlemen when these terms are propounded to them; for it is evident that they suppose an endorsement, hearty or laggard, of the President's policy is all that is requisite to bring them back to the enjoyment of all their political rights.

THE RADICALS.

As they are called, are much more powerful than their sneering opponents suppose them to be. This will be apparent when Congress meets. They claim to have a clear majority in both Houses, and also on joint ballot. They are not merely strong in votes, but in Statesmanship and ability, and they will present a very respectable, not to say determined, front against any opposition, no matter from what source it may come. A clear conception of the immense price paid for our National salvation, and the steady determination that no opportunity shall be left for the repetition of the history of the past four years, may be said to be the guiding creed of the radicals. Aside from all temporizing policies of mere expediency, this is, after all, the great question to be settled, and the whole country is anxious that it shall be settled once and forever.

THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY.

In the meantime, President Johnson is anxious to give his "experiment," as he calls it, a full trial. He proposes not to be partial to it any more than he is to any other policy. But he thinks no better one has yet been offered. If he discovers that the Southern people abuse his magnanimity, he will doubtless be willing to turn them over to the tender mercies of the radicals or any other enemies whom they now dread. But the feeling is very general, that in many respects the Southerners have got the better of him already, and indeed, the tone of their press would indicate that they have learned very little from the experience of the last four years. They are still disposed to bluster about State Rights, and other heresies which precipitated armed rebellion. If they want to be admitted into the Thirty-ninth Congress, all this must be abandoned. There is one thing, which in justice to President Johnson, I think we are safe in believing, and that is, that he is honest in his intentions. He is a true patriot and wants to do the best he can for the country.

THE NEGRO SUFFRAGE QUESTION.

On this subject I cannot speak with any sort of confidence, I only know that the President and a portion of the Cabinet are opposed to it. Not, however, as against the measure itself, but simply on the ground of expediency. The *Chronicle*, which is understood to speak for the Administration here, has been advocating the impolicy of making this a test question in the coming elections, merely on the ground of its inexpediency. I have not seen enough Congressmen yet to know how the question stands with them. You may be certain, however, that the radicals will listen to no plea for expediency. They look upon that mode of avoiding a question in the same light as they do upon a compromise. If, however, it becomes apparent on the assembling of Congress, that there is no show for success in this measure, the radicals will scarcely allow themselves to swing away from the majority of their natural allies, the members of the National Union party. J. M.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.—A writer in the *Evangelist*, dating at Baltimore, suggests the propriety of general church action in view of the approach of the cholera. The matter should be urged. The indications of a visit from this fearful pestilence are unquestionable, and church courts can find no duty more solemn and timely than to call for the prayers of the country. One point in the suggestion of the *Evangelist's* correspondent may require a second thought. He would prefer that the recommendation should come from the Church rather than from the Government, for the reason that the latter is not of the body of the Lord. We are disposed to think that, under national scourging, God has a peculiar regard for strictly national humiliations, and no other fasting and prayer can be so emphatically national in its character, as that which is observed under recommendation by the constituted authorities of the nation. In view of the probably impending calamity, we can think of no preparation which would be so eminent as a public proclamation by our highest civil authority, calling for public humiliation and prayer.

FROM OUR EAST TENNESSEE CORRESPONDENT.

MR. EDITOR:—Your articles with reference to Andrew Johnson are generally read in East Tennessee, and read by some not quite ready to endorse all you have written. They still have confidence in the President, and hope for the best. Should the President strike off on some side track; should he disappoint their reasonable expectations and discriminate in the least in favor of treason, then you might put your ear to the ground and you would hear loud and definite complaints. The positive loyalty of East Tennesseans; the expatriation, voluntary and involuntary, of thousands of our rebel citizens; the rapid wheeling into line of some of the worst rebel States, and some of the most fanatical and extreme rebel leaders—are all exerting a wholesome influence on the public mind. Every rebel who leaves; every violent rebel from whom damages are collected; every charge to a grand jury, and every exposition of their duty to a justice's assembly, each and all, exert an important influence on public sentiment.

MEETING OF UNION PRESBYTERY.

I have just returned from a meeting of Union Presbytery held at Mt. Horeb, Jefferson County. This was the largest of the four Presbyteries composing the Synod of Tennessee. A majority of its ministers drifted into the United Synod, and then into the rebellion. The utter overthrow of the aristocratic Confederacy has somewhat affected them.

The Presbytery met on Friday, September 29th, and was opened with a sermon from Luke xx 17, 18. Rev. T. J. Lamar, Rev. Wm. Harrison, Rev. Wm. Lyle, and Rev. Wm. H. Smith, and thirteen ruling elders were present. Rev. Mr. Griffith, stationed at New Market, was received from Saginaw Presbytery, Michigan. Rev. John L. Craig, who has been laboring several months in Blount County, Rev. P. J. H. Myers, stationed at Dandridge, and myself were invited to sit as corresponding members.

COLORED CHURCH AND DELEGATE.

A statement was made respecting the First Colored Presbyterian Church, organized by Rev. John B. Reeve at Knoxville, Tennessee. On motion that the Presbytery receive the church under its care, the request was granted, and Mr. David Scragg, the colored delegate, presented the Records of the Session, and took his seat as a member of Presbytery. This church starts out with a membership of about twenty; it has two elders chosen and ordained; it has furnished itself with the Church Psalmist, and copies of the Confession of Faith; it has organized a choir, and purchased a dozen copies of the Eclectic Tune Book; it has chosen a board of trustees and raised three hundred dollars to purchase a suitable site for a house of worship which they hope soon to build.

CANDIDATES.

Mr. Benjamin Lee and Mr. M. M. Harris, of Washington Church, were received under the care of Presbytery as candidates for the ministry.

TOO MUCH MONEY.

The former treasurer reported in the treasury \$507 60—almost all of which was Confederate money. If Dr. Converse will take this kind of money for pay, an order for the amount might cover a part of the expense he has incurred in sending hundreds of copies of the *Christian Observer* to persons in East Tennessee, unwilling to "lift it" from the office.

DELIVERANCE ON REBELLION.

A committee was appointed to present a paper on the subject of treason, and the following document was adopted:—Your committee report in favor of Presbytery endorsing fully the action of the General Assembly on Treason—

The late rebellion in our Government is either right or wrong. It is either a crime, or it is no crime. That it is a crime appears.

First, from the fact that it is a violation of a positive command of God's holy word, "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers; for there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God." Now, we hold that no man can engage in a rebellion against his government and be guiltless, unless it can be made to appear that the government has long been tyrannical and oppressive, and that there is no other possible method of obtaining redress. Instead of the United States Government being oppressive, it has ever been humane, and protected all its citizens in every right. To lay violent hands on such a government, and endeavor to break it up for the sole purpose of perpetuating and making more secure, a system of human bondage which has hitherto been attended with great cruelties, we regard as no ordinary crime. Not only is it a crime against the civil Government, but it is a crime against God, for it is rebellion against his authority.

Second, it appears to be a crime from the consequences which have followed. The Apostle Paul recorded, more than eighteen hundred years ago, what would be the consequence of resisting right-fully-constituted authority, "They that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." Damnation in this place means punishment in this life. Now, the very thing which the Apostle told us long ago would come upon the rebellious in all its fearful realities has come upon her. With this declaration of Scripture before us, and in view of the fact that God has abhorred the rebellion in such a