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# American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY. NOVEMBER 16, 1865.

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## PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1865.

HONORING THE HOLY SPIRIT. They that look for true prosperity in the Church and that would prepare the way for that it is God himself condescending to Revivals, must honor the Holy Spirit. They must give prominence in their plans, their prayers, and their efforts to his character. his relations, his power, his office work, and his supremacy. Naturally, they will

conscious movement toward true revival. 1. They will honor the Spirit by recognizing his true divinity and personality. Revival is unknown among those who deny it; those who heartily believe it and live up to their belief, are spiritually alive, are ready for revival. The supremacy of the Spirit in this dispensation, must be recognized in order to give Him due honor. The Holy Spirit is the promised Paraclete, the spiritual Christ, taking the place of Christ

'after the flesh" in his church. Whatever we are and experience and do, as Christians, is in, and by, the Holy Spirit. Our prayers this exalted position and these intimate

2. We honor him by recognizing his indispensable agency in the work of regeneration. This great change is a new birth. It is a removal of obstinacy and of utter moral powerlessness from the sinner. It is quickening those dead in trespasses and sins. It is renewing the affections, spiritualizing the tastes, turning from earth heavenward the whole tide or man's fallen nature; it is making Jesus appear lovely and glorious to those who could see no beauty in him to desire him. It is raising out of the depths of depravity to a career of holiness. We honor the Spirit by recognizing the full and dreadful measure ot

short of Divine interposition can rescue him, and by casting ourselves wholly, humbly, importunately upon his condescension, his grace for help.

3. We honor the Spirit by admitting large views of his power and willingness to aid His people. We are prone to narrow timorous views and expectations. When in the lapse of ages will the world be converted if, we will not say the desires, but the confident hopes of Christ's people in

large and speedy manifestations of His converting power, only, are fulfilled? We dare not allow ourselves to believe that the Holy Spirit is ready largely to bless us now. We measure our expectations only by what we have seen in the past. We do

strive with unwilling rebellious man, and that it would be no wonder if his continued opposition to the heavenly call should suddenly put an end to the marvellous scene. and at last utterly reverse the position of be drawn in this direction as the first the parties. "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me." If you seek for personal salvation, or for general revival, Honor the Holy Spirit.

#### "SOMETHING TOLD ME."

Most eventful results have often followed the carrying out of those suggestions of the moment which are expressed by the above phrase. Some of the choicest opportunities for eternal accomplishments have slipped by, never to be repeated, by ignoring their Divine origin, and treating them as a passing fancy. We have often thought of this. Recently, in a social meeting, our views of it were freshened by the narrative which a Christian brother gave of the results of some efforts of his own, the immediate prompting to which was-something told me to do it.

For example: Walking along the street great religious interest, he saw near at pressions. hand a young man, a total stranger, and some= thing told him to make inquiry respecting the condition of his soul. Feeling the instigation to be one that had a meaning and should be obeyed, he joined himself to the young man, and affectionately inquired respecting his spiritual condition. He found him unconverted, but candid, free, and interested-indeed anxious for salvation. But he was standing at bay, at the point where unbelief generally makes its last stand-Christ's present readiness to receive the returning sinner. Our brother met the case at that point, and by instruction and invitation, sought to lead him to the Saviour then. God opened his heart to believe. The two stepped aside into a retired nook and knelt together, and there the young consecration of himself to the Lord.

God had unquestionably arranged the circumstances of this conversion. He had brought the mind of the subject of it to just the point where nothing further was needed from man than that last appeal to come then to Jesus, but where just that

or neglect, just as truly as human love can | that something is-whether the Holy Spirit, | IF TREASON BE NO CRIME, WHAT be. Nay, he must solemnly lay it to heart, or an idle fancy, or a Satapic inspiration. We hardly need to say that, in trying the spirits, reference is always to be had to the word of God, as the conclusive test. If they speak not according to that, there is no truth in them. If the impression of any given moment relates to some proposed duty, does it fall within those lines of Christian duty marked out in the book of Divine

revelation ? And does the way suggested for pursuing the proposed duty, accord with good? Familiarity with these inward suggestions, such as is obtained through obedi-

ence and watching the fruits of obedience, largely qualifies one for judging the true nature of any individual impression upon his mind. The men who are constantly handling bank notes are seldom, imposed upon by a counterfeit. So the people who habitually live in the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit, who are always careful to listen

Philip to go and join himself to the Ethiopian noble; but it is easy to suppose that the command was given only through one of those special silent promptings which we are now considering. And if so, there was little danger that its character should be

mistaken by such a man. We think of him as one whose familiarity with those influences was intimate, whose heart was ever

THEN? Those who are acting upon the admission been committed by the rebellious South,

more striking of them. the Gospel-prescribed methods of winning any human government; none to seek to little more than six months ago, were arsouls, extending the Church, and doing subvert the social order; it is none to assail rayed in arms against it. The Southern of a nation. All possible aggravations, such as the purpose to perpetuate American Slavery, the free Constitution and glorious nationality which it was proposed to its special calls, and who have found in | leaders like Stephens and General Lee, | aged now by the attitude of the North on the fruit of their obedience to those calls, that that secession was unwise and unnecessary, rebellion, as they formerly were in regard they were not mistaken concerning the na- that ours is "the best and freest govern- to the Scripturalness of slavery, will render ture of them, become familiarized to the ment-the most equal in its rights-the their combined and powerful aid to quiet modes. the tones. and the utterance of the most just in its decisions-the most lenient the Southern conscience, and indeed to voice of the Spirit. Their hearts answer it in its measures, and the most inspiring in I nurse a sense of the holiness of the cause in with a responsive thrill which is not likely its principles, to elevate the race of men which they were enlisted, and to keep alive of a city in the evening, during a time of to be awakened by any simulation of its im- that the sun in heaven ever shone upon ;"

Weiknow not whether there was any government "is the height of madness, outward word or sign, when the Spirit told folly; and wickedness,"-such acknowled- the Episcopal Convention, and in certain not make them guilty. Their apprehensions were a delusion ; they were over-conscientious; they should have plunged into their rebellion without a scruple.

There can then be no such a thing as crime in rebellion against any government, under any circumstances, and with any open to their reception, and ever ready for aggravations, if crime has not been perpeobedience, and who had learned, from the trated by the South. The whole thing is fruits of such obedience, to trace them to removed from the sphere of morals and their Divine source. We expect him to become a mere matter of calculation. All in the sight of God or man, and needs no distinguish the voice of the Spirit from all governments are, fairly and justly at the imposture. And in precisely this way, mercy of the dissatisfied and the restless if along with the additional advantage which these happen to be the strongest.\* There man, as is believed, made the everlasting the written word now furnishes, we may is to be no barrier against rebellion in the before a second attempt is made by those still expect Christians to be assured of the public conscience, or in the solemn deci-

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to destroy this Government, since its failure the conduct of the North has been such as to relieve them from all sense of blameworthat no crime, requiring repentance, has thiness whatever. No one is punished; pardons are distributed by the thousand; are perhaps not aware of the width and political equality is offered them with the significance of the inferences to be drawn utmost liberality, and not a whisper of from this most false and dangerous con- | criminality or unfitness for the exercise of cession. Let us but enumerate some of the | the highest duties, or the enjoyment of the highest privileges of American citizenship, Of course, then, it is no crime to plot is addressed by our Government to the and undertake the destruction of this or rankest and bloodiest of those who, but even a happy, just, and equal government; people are showering honors upon their late none to rise without a real serious grievance rebel leaders, electing them to high literary and from mere passion, political jealousy positions, making them legislators, goveror sectional ambition, to declare and carry | nors, and even Congressmen; and we might on a most murderous war against the life just as well as not prepare to see them present one of their own number, in due season, and with the calmest kind of effrontery, among the candidates for the next Presidential term. The Southern churches, reto destroy, the candid acknowledgment of taining their distinct organizations, encourthe hope of success in another effort. How and that the attempt to overthrow such a bold is the Southern Church in these efforts, may be seen from its recent demonstrations in ments betraving the clearest convictions of Synods of the other branch of the Presbywrong on the part of the perpetrators, do terian Church. It not only teaches its people at home that they have done no wrong, but it demands that the whole Northern Church shall recognize and teach the same doctrine, as the only condition on which it will resume its former ecclesiasti-

cal relations with us. Thus, not only is the terrible perversion of the Southern conscience to be perpetuated, but the conscience of the North also is to be debauched to the admission that the South has done no wrong reventance.

Without doubt, the recent rebellion is utterly crushed, and it will be many a year now smarting under the bitterness of heavenly origin of the special inward calls, sions and penalties of the law. Minor dis- their failure. But the mortification of which often summon them to special duties. orders, single cases of murder and robbery, failure and the sense of pecuniary loss are We are surprised that a subject which is street-mobs, are to be treated with all the feelings not too deep for the lapse of time so influential in the progress of the work of formality of law, with a strict view to to obliterate. If the judgment of the Nasalvation, so seldom comes up for remark. maintaining the moral sentiment of the tional conscience that rebellion is one ot We doubt whether there is scarcely a community; but when all crimes are organ- the greatest of crimes is not solemnly put

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the children of our families and of the Sabbath Schools. We do not expect the Spirit, by great strokes of his Almighty power, to send a thrill of conviction to the consciences of a whole community at once, or, as by a simultaneous impulse, to inflame all hearts with zeal and love, and devotion to Christ. We are too much absorbed in worldly affairs, verhaps, exactly to relish such a religious revolution. At any rate,

we do not tune our expectations to such a key, or pray with ardent faith that such manifestations in any considerable degree may take place. We are content and happy if a slow, old-fashioned, orderly rate of progress is maintained, occasionally varied by a somewhat more abundant ingathering. We strike thrice when we should have struck five or six times. Infinite power and grace are not honored by such human

limitations. The God that brought Israel out of Egypt-Israel's God-says : " Open must believe that, on the broader scale of the Church's whole field of effort, many irwide thy mouth and I will fill it." The

reparable losses of seemingly possible acqui Holy Spirit that came down in tongues of sitions-the loss of individual souls, the fire, and that converted thousands in a day at the commencement of His dispensation. loss of revivals, and the loss of golden opportunities for glorious Christian achieveand that, in three centuries of persecution. ments-are to be laid to the account of converted the world, may well be offended trifling with this "something told me"by our ignoble content, and our low views these heaven-born suggestions of the moof His real energy, and grieved and ofment. We may suppose that they never fended may leave us where we are content come from God until he has himself preto grovel. "According to your faith be it

pared the way for some specific result of what is done in obedience to them. If 4. We honor the Spirit by rightly estimathey fail to secure obedience, although it is ting his tenderness, his pity, his long-sufnot for us to say what God may do concernfering love. He is no cold abstraction, but ing that result, still the case stands practia true person, filled with infinite yearning cally against us. Practically, our responsitowards perishing souls. He persuades. he bility for all the loss and misery, temporal entreats, he follows with miraculous pa-

and eternal, which that something told us tience the persisting obstinate sinners. He bears with innumerable rebuffs, with scorn. to strive to arrest, is real. with bitter hostility. He strives as a wres-We do not forget that this subject is

tler with an antagonist. Sometimes the beset with some dangers of mistake. We conflict is an agony to rid the soul from the give no countenance to the wild conclusion grasp of its own sins and its deadly enemy. that every mental impression is to be ac-It is as if God came in storm and thunder, cepted as the voice of the Holy Spirit. The worst beings in the universe have some in- port, and is to enter at once, we believe, as if he sent from above, and took the sinvisible, mysterious access to our minds, and upon his labors in this new field. ner and drew him out of many waters, from

the sorrows of hell and the snares of death. their suggestions are often dangerous in The sinner has a work to do in honoring proportion as they put on the false show of the Spirit. It is his part to recognize this sanctity. We can accept of nothing as infinite tenderness, this patient, persuading coming from God, merely because one says love of God, and to heed the still, small voice, speaking through his conscience. He must not forget that this infinite love | suggestions made to our own minds, until | worship in complete repair and so be can be wounded and grieved by rejection we have some reasonable evidence of what ready to receive a good pastor.

Christian reader of this article, who cannot | ized into one, and when the attempt is inal urgency was indispensable." He had brought him into the street at that hour that he might fall in with the brother mentioned; and the something which told that brother to inquire for the welfare of his soul was the whisper of the Holy Spirit. It may not seem lawful to speculate concerning what might have been the result, the exact work which he has prepared for had the suggestion of the moment been dismissed as a passing thought. With God there are no uncertainties; there is nothfeel that something which tells them to do ing which answers to our common notions it. We trace an intimate relation between of contingent results. Still he has laid out our work in a way which presents crises to this "something tells me" and some of the most surprising results of holy enterprise

be met by us, as if their issues for good or which our world has witnessed. In the evil were suspended upon the manner in early part of the present century, something which we meet them. And so there is an told three college students to start out for allowable sense to the supposition that, in the case here related, the loss of an immorthe salvation of the heathen world. They tal soul might have been the consequence of obeyed, and now behold all Christian America committed to organized missionary endisobeying the inward monition. In the same allowable sense we may and

terprises which have already belted the globe.

No doubt God opens to his people seaons and opportunities for peculiar results by peculiar outward providences. But his most special calls to special effort for the to whom it is addressed may be sure that it is for some purpose. Some work is then ready, and if prosecuted, something will

come of it. It is the moment of a passing opportunity which, if lost, may return no more-the crisis moment of some immortal soul, or some still wider interest of the Church. He that is thus moved by Heaven, has only to step forth in the spirit of prompt obedience, and he will find that God has gone before him. Or if he treat the Divine impression as a play of fancy, he will probably find his false judgment recorded as a contempt of the Spirit of grace.

REV. HORATIO W. BROWN, lately of Lyons, has accepted the call given him by the Presbyterian Church of Brock-

Rev. C. E. Stebbins, of Phelps, has will accept. The Ovid Church has recently paid off a small debt, and now that something told him to do or say it. | stands clear of any such embarrassment; We cannot be satisfied to obey any such | are preparing also to put their house of

recall to memory times when his mind felt | made by thousands of intelligent responsisingular impressions of duty toward some | ble agents to break down all law, then the sinner, some straying brother, some peculiar offence is to be treated as if no moral eleinterest of the Church, or something to be ment was involved in it, as if it were a said, done, or bestowed for the cause of mere natural evil, no more to be punished Christ. In this way God often brings his | than the boisterous waves of the Hellespont own chosen instruments into contact with should have been for hindering the prothem. When his preparation for the re- it, is to treat it like a flood, to sweep it cause, of martyrdom in fact, is thus to be sult of their effort is complete, then they back, to dike it out if we can, and to thank encouraged in the Southern mind, and hon-God for it when it is done.

> fathers been subverted and replaced by an odious slavocracy, binding the fetters more closely on the necks of four millions of men. would, to a very considerable and an almost

ed the consciences of men; but would even success have much more misled and perverted the judgments of men, than our treatsalvation of men, are those which, unheard | joice at the elevation of General Lee to the and unseen from without, are spoken direct presidency of a college, make substantially nearly undone us. to the heart. When that call is made, he the same impression upon the public conscience with men who deplore his humiliation at Amelia Court House.

> And if treason is not a crime, where was of our youth? How can we look into the pale faces of orphaned children, childless fathers, whose sons, and whose husbands we encouraged to go and mingle in the deadly fray, as we would have encouraged martyrs to go to the stake? We would not

have dared to lay such responsibilities upon them in a strife for mere material interests apart from all principle.

Above all, what security against the repetition of the offence have we in the future? It is only a mistake, a blunder, a received a call to the Presbyterian failure which is to be attributed to the Church at Ovid, which it is probable he | South. Whatever their consciences may have objected before or during the attempt

> \* In Carlye's very immoral History of Fred eric the Great, he lays down a political princi-

upon record and illustrated by some signal judicial act; if the Government is to appear utterly oblivious of such criminality in its treatment of the rebel leaders; if the whole North is to welcome back to an equality in every civil, commercial, ecclesiastical, and social relation, the Southern people, as entirely worthy of our confidence and respect ; gress of Xerxes. All we have to do with if the idea of Providential failure in a good ors of every kind are to be heaped upon

Had the rebellion succeeded, and had rebel leaders living and dead; in short, if the fair fabric of liberty erected by our not law, and the moral sense, but ONLY FORCE is to be arrayed against even the least justifiable and bloodiest of rebellions, then its spirit will not die. Guarded in and putting contempt upon the memory of the palladium of public opinion, it will live a quarter of a million of new martyrs for \_\_\_\_\_it will maintain respectability and pres-American liberty, still there would have tige in spite of temporary ill success; it been no crime committed. Success, indeed, will bide its time, and in another unexpected moment it will burst forth more virexcusable extent, have blinded and bewilder- ulent than ever: and as we suffered the penalty of our forefathers' Constitutional and well-meant toleration of slavery, so our posterity will expiate, in tears and blood, ment of failure is doing? Men, who re- if not in National ruin, our easy and unpardonable lenity to the crime which has

PROCLIVITIES OF TREASON .--- It has all along been curious to observe the readiness with which traitors, when they have the honor, the nobleness, the virtue of op- passed over the St. Lawrence, betake posing it? What right had we to lay the themselves to the sympathies and instiduty of opposing it, with all the great and tutions of Romanism. A Montreal corsolemn sanctions of religion, upon the hearts | respondent of La Canadien is responsible for the following :

"The children of Jefferson Davis have been pale faces of orphaned children, childless for some time in Canada, as is well known. parents and broken-hearted widows, whose The two boys are just now in Chambly, and about to enter Lennoxville College. The young girl, nine years of age, is a pupil at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Sault au Recallets. Last Sabbath several Southern refugees went to see her. They brought with them the Federal General Cochrane, whom they introduced to the girl, telling her that he was a good friend of the Southern cause, although circumstances constrained him to fight in the ranks of its enemies. The child, looking to the General, answered, 'I shall believe that you are one of the friends of the cause when you shall have obtained the release of my father.' The General was deeply moved with this answer, and promised the child to use all his influence on behalf of Mr. Jefferson Davis. General Cochrane, who, I believe, occupies an official position in the United States, visited yesterday the magnificent establishment of the Hotel Dieu. He was so highly pleased with his visit that he begged leave from the good sisters to present them a picture for their Church, which he is to forward them from New York."