

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1865.

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THE POPULAR MAGAZINES AS PRESENTED.

For \$3 50 we will send a copy of the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN and HOURS AT HOME, or GUTHRIE'S SUNDAY MAGAZINE, to any one as yet subscribing for neither. For \$5 50 we will send the paper and both magazines.

Old subscribers to the paper, (but not to the magazines), on promptly renewing their subscriptions, and sending us \$5, [ministers \$4, home missionaries \$3 50,] will receive a copy of either of the magazines for a year.

REV. MEAD HOLMES, father of the "Soldier of the Cumberland," and an active Sabbath-school missionary from Wisconsin, addressed the Sabbath-schools of North Broad Street Church, and the Spring Garden (O. S.) Church, last Sabbath afternoon.

REVIVALS.—Such of our readers as are watching the signs of the coming of the heavenly showers, and we hope there are none but such, are referred to the account from Washington, contained in this paper, and also to the columns of Religious Intelligence on the inside pages. There are, on many hands, shouts of the king in the camp.

ONLY TOO FAIR A HIT.—The Christian Times noticing with well-deserved commendation Guthrie's Sunday Magazine, a Scotch periodical, not published on the Sabbath, but named as above because of its suitability for Sabbath reading, adds:—"As it purports to be a Sunday Magazine, it contains nothing inconsistent with the sacredness of the day, and unlike many of our Sabbath-school books, it may be read through without even the apprehension of stumbling upon anything trifling or unduly secular."

PICTURE OF UNITARIANISM.—Here is one painted by one of its own ministers, pastor of the Unitarian Church in Detroit, said to be one of the best churches of the connection in the Northwest. We give it as we find it in the Boston papers:—"The congregation has averaged, on pleasant Sundays, about one hundred and eighty. Some believe everything, some believe nothing. Some believe a little, and some are trying to believe something. Taking all things into account this society is a pleasant one, and will rank among the first connected with the Conference!"

A SYNODICAL RECORD IMPROVED.—We suppose our readers, like ourselves, have felt a very earnest sympathy with the action of the Old School Assembly of last spring, in reference to reasonable ministers and ecclesiastical bodies formerly in their connection, and hence have looked with concern upon the agitation started to secure its repeal, or at least such modification of it as will reduce it to practical nothingness. Nothing in the course of this agitation took us more by surprise than the action of the Synod of Philadelphia, at its late meeting, adopting wholesale and verbatim the Minute of the New Jersey Synod, which alleged the unconstitutionality of the Assembly's doings. We published this Minute, as then reported in the papers of that church, and we now, with much greater cheerfulness, publish from the Pittsburgh Banner a fuller account of the whole transaction in the Philadelphia Synod, furnished by "A Member," who says:—

"Messrs Editors:—In your last issue you say that certain parties are making certain uses of the action of our Synod on the action of the last Assembly. In order that they may make the most of the doings of the 'Mother Synod,' it is important that they have before them all that the old lady did. 'Early during the sessions, while there were present some hundred and thirty or forty members, this first resolution was passed unanimously: 'Resolved, That in the action of the last General Assembly with reference to Southern members of churches and Presbyteries, we recognize an honest desire to discharge their duty toward the Church and the Country.' 'We quote from memory, and cannot give the precise wording, nor can we understand why this part of the Synod's action was not published with the rest. 'Afterward the 'New Jersey' paper was introduced, and advocated at great length; in the meantime members after members withdrawing, until at length when the time came to vote, only some fifty-seven were in the house. The Synod was on the point of adjourning for dinner, after which one-half of the fifty-seven must leave. If they vote at all they must do it now. Time remained for neither amendment nor further discussion, and so the paper was adopted with a vote of almost 'two to one,' quite a number of those who voted in the affirmative, afterwards openly expressing their dissatisfaction with their vote."

THANKSGIVING. Our present number is dated on the day set apart by Presidential proclamation for National Thanksgiving for the blessings of the year, prominent among which is the termination of our long and agonizing civil war, in the triumph of the Government, and "the great enlargement of civil liberty." Those of our readers into whose hands the paper falls, on the morning of this day, will feel the occasion opportune for reading the following sentiments on the subject, from the pen of the venerable Bishop McVaine, of Ohio—from his pen, and who doubts their coming from his heart also? They are, as he states, copied from the draft of a Pastoral Letter, reported by him to the House of Bishops in the late Triennial Convention, but rejected by them for reasons which the whole history of that Convention renders only too obvious. They, with other parts of the rejected Letter, have since been issued as a pastoral, to his own diocese. Of the act of the House of Bishops concerning them, the Episcopal Recorder says:—"That this passage should have been erased from a Pastoral Letter, after the close of the war, for the sake of sparing the feelings of any one, will hereafter be considered one of those curiosities of ecclesiastical literature, which will take its place by the side of vindications of slavery as a divine institution, and denunciations of those who rejected this dogma, as rationalists and infidels!" The passage is as follows:—"What has God wrought for us, as citizens, and as members of the Church, in his late most signal Providences, towards our nation and Government? Looking back to days when clouds and darkness were round about us, with what wonder and praise should we when the great and most happy changes, which, under God's mighty hand, have come upon the condition and prospects of our recently most afflicted land. All along the sad years of our late great contest for the preservation of our Government and Union, in days of special humiliation and prayer, and every day, we entreated our Heavenly Father, so to deliver us that war might be no more in all our borders; that resistance to the authority of the National Government might utterly cease; that all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, might be put away from the hearts of men on both sides of the contest that afflicted us; that peace, union and concord might be restored to the nation, and brotherly fellowship and unity to our beloved Church. Blessed be God—our prayers, with those of our Christian brethren in other Communion, were not in vain. God has not dealt with us after our sins. His compassions have not failed. War has ceased. Precious peace has come. The National Union is preserved. The authority of the National Government is universally restored. Bitterness and anger are wonderfully passing away. That great source of dissension and evil feeling, involuntary servitude, is considered, on all sides, as having found its end. The means of education and improvement are being extended among those who have been delivered from that yoke of bondage. Obstacles in their way are being removed. Vast and essential internal changes, affecting the whole fabric of society in Southern States, are acquiesced in with a spirit of wisdom and harmony which promises the happiest results.

Who has not read the "Appeal to the Old Sextant, for Pewee Are?" Who has not laughed at its ridiculous spelling, and its curious conceits; and at the same time admired its profound good sense and its real philosophy? Somebody must have been in a good mood when that was written. It is 'one of those things that are "born, not made." And one evidence of its real worth is the fact that, although written many years ago, it is still "going the rounds," and is read every year with as much zest as when first published. It ought especially to be in the hands of every sexton, of every church in the land. The sexton ought to be required by contract, to read it once a week, until it has its legitimate effect upon the mind and upon the weekly practice of that important functionary. The people do not often know how much more they are indebted to the sexton than to the minister for the "dull sermons" that distress them. We would defy even Henry Ward Beecher, or John B. Gough, to keep an audience awake and lively in some of the unventilated churches, where some congregations are every week tortured, and yet do not know "what hurts them. What they want is "pewee are," or air for the pews, if we may interpret the address. If the "Sextant" will read this touching "appeal" he will see good reason for giving it.

But who wrote this address? In the last printing of it which came under our observation, we see it is credited to the "Iowa Newsletter." It is said to have been written by "somebody out west," which would seem to mean, in that connection, somebody in Iowa, or Minnesota, or Kansas, or Nebraska. It might have been just as good if that were its origin; but as it was not, we do not know that we betray any confidence by saying that the author is Mrs. Arabella M. Willson, of Canandaigua; a gifted and accomplished Christian lady, who also, wrote the lives of the three Mrs. Judsons, and has written other things which are admired and cherished by her friends. We do not see any reason why she should not have credit for so admirable a thing as the "Pewee Are," as it is her own.

A little over two years ago, Rev. Job Pierson was called from the pleasant little village of Victor to the large Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he received a generous, cordial welcome, and where he has since continued to be useful. Soon after Mr. Pierson left Victor, Rev. William H. Webb, a young man but recently out of the Seminary, was called to fill his place, and served this interesting congregation with all fidelity and acceptance until another important Church in Michigan found out that Victor was a nice place to come to for valuable ministers; and so Mr. Webb was transferred to the large and flourishing Presbyterian Church of Adrian; that to which Rev. Dr. Curtis, of Elmira, ministered so ably and acceptably for eighteen years.

We learn from the "Adrian Daily Times," that Mr. Webb has met with a very handsome and generous welcome in his new home. It seems that the people are quite possessed with the idea that Mr. Webb is just the man they were looking for, and that it would do no hurt to let him know they thought so; they therefore, "surprised" him by furnishing his house, in part at least, and by a very complimentary and kind speech of welcome; to which, the thankful pastor made a heart-felt and happy response. This promises well for his usefulness in the new and important position to which he is called.

And now Victor is looking for another pastor. Who wants to be put on the course for another important pulpit in Michigan? We do not know that the good people of Victor relish the idea of serving only for a training school for the benefit of others. And yet we know they prefer to have a good and able minister, even if they can't keep him always; and such an one they are capable of appreciating. We hope, therefore, that the Victor church will get one of the best, for their sake, as well as for the churches of the growing Peninsular States.

GRIT.—It is known that, some weeks since, the Presidency of the Washington and Jefferson College, in Southwestern Pennsylvania, was offered to Rev. Dr. Robert J. Breckinridge. This College, since the consolidation which united the two bearing the above names, is among the leading literary institutions of the land, and the position offered to Dr. Breckinridge, is one of distinction; as well as remunerative. In Kentucky, as the implacable enemy of secession, he has, all through the war, been the subject of a harassing opposition from the disloyal part of the Old School Church in that State, and this annoying contest, with the odds against him, is becoming more virulent, as connected with the repeal movement there. It was, therefore, supposed that, at his time of life, the proposed appointment would afford him a welcome retreat, from the heat of the strife. But the war horse still snuffs the battle. The doctor feels that the great work for Christ and the honor of his Church in Kentucky is yet to be done, and that, in the crisis, such a man as himself should not flee. And so, on the ground that "fidelity to his Church and duty to his country, require him to remain in Kentucky," he declines the position offered.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDING EDITOR. NOT SO FAR WEST.

Who has not read the "Appeal to the Old Sextant, for Pewee Are?" Who has not laughed at its ridiculous spelling, and its curious conceits; and at the same time admired its profound good sense and its real philosophy? Somebody must have been in a good mood when that was written. It is 'one of those things that are "born, not made." And one evidence of its real worth is the fact that, although written many years ago, it is still "going the rounds," and is read every year with as much zest as when first published. It ought especially to be in the hands of every sexton, of every church in the land. The sexton ought to be required by contract, to read it once a week, until it has its legitimate effect upon the mind and upon the weekly practice of that important functionary. The people do not often know how much more they are indebted to the sexton than to the minister for the "dull sermons" that distress them. We would defy even Henry Ward Beecher, or John B. Gough, to keep an audience awake and lively in some of the unventilated churches, where some congregations are every week tortured, and yet do not know "what hurts them. What they want is "pewee are," or air for the pews, if we may interpret the address. If the "Sextant" will read this touching "appeal" he will see good reason for giving it.

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preaching and their timely and judicious counsels. It was a happy thought of our General Assembly, planning such visits to that tried and distinguished part of our country.

QUICKENINGS. We hear of some increased interest in various congregations, such as Le Roy, Bergen, and elsewhere, enough to encourage pastors and people to hope and pray for greater things. We think Christians of this region sympathize deeply with the general expectation of a great awakening throughout the land, and will be found ready and glad to toil in the Master's vineyard according to any special necessities which the time may reveal. Western New York is a land which the Lord has blessed, and where his dear people have learned to work heartily and mightily for him.

IN our communication of week before last, we gave Prof. Hopkins, of Auburn, credit for giving the charge to the pastor at the installation at Seneca Falls. It should have been Rev. T. M. Hopkins, of Geneva. We mistook T. M. for S. M., and beg pardon of the former for not giving him credit according to his due.

IN our last the types alone are in error. Rev. J. P. Fillmore, should be Rev. I. O. Fillmore, as every man prefers to have his own name rather than another. C. P. B.

ROCHESTER, December 2, 1865.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, December 4, 1865.

Public interest in the organization of the Thirty-ninth Congress has been intense, considering the fact that it was generally known that all the important matters connected with it were settled beforehand.

As I write, hundreds of ladies and gentlemen are crowding into the galleries of the House and Senate, while a more numerous throng is surging to and fro along the passage ways and stairways leading to the Chambers of Congress. It is only eleven o'clock, and the galleries of the House are already full to repletion. On the floor of the House quite a number of members are standing or sitting together in groups, engaged in mutual exchange of greetings, and in conversation. It is easy to discern that this is the popular branch of the National Legislature. There is a certain noisy clamor about it which indicates its proximity to the great masses of the country. In front of the Speaker's stand, the Hon. Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, Speaker of the Thirty-eighth Congress is standing receiving the congratulations of the members. He is a remarkably pleasant gentleman, and has a good word and a smile for everybody. The Democratic members are gathered in a corner around the Hon. James Brooks, of New York, in solemn consultation, the nature of which may be readily guessed. Some of the half reconstructed Southern members are near by them, apparently deeply interested in whatever is being said. Perhaps they are making arrangements for "fillibustering," so as to delay the organization of the House.

It is now twelve o'clock. The Hon. Edward McPherson, of Pennsylvania, who was Clerk of the House in the Thirty-eighth Congress ascends the Speaker's stand, and calls the House to order, notifying all who are not members to quit the floor. The continuous buzz from the galleries and the floor is hushed, and Mr. McPherson proceeds to call the roll of members by States. All are waiting anxiously to see if he will call the Southern delegations. Speculation as to the result vanishes as soon as he reaches Virginia. That State, together with North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Florida are passed over in silence. When Mr. McPherson had reached Tennessee, and failed to call the names of the delegation from that State, the Hon. Horace Maynard arose and tried to gain the attention of the Clerk, but in vain. After he had finished calling the roll, Mr. Maynard again tried to be heard, but McPherson was inexorable. This settled the matter of the admission of members from the late rebellious States.

The Hon. Justin S. Morrill, of Vermont, now moved the House proceed to the election of Speaker. He had scarcely taken his seat, before I noticed the Hon. James Brooks, of New York, on his feet. I saw at once the meaning of the little knot of Democrats and half reconstructed rebels, which I had noticed previously standing in a corner by themselves. Brooks set about a labored and evidently prepared argument for the admission of Southern members, and took issue with the Clerk for refusing to call their names. The little pages were kept busy carrying him copies of the Congressional Globe and other books of reference, which he had left in one of the cloak-rooms, already marked. He was soon interrupted by Long John Wentworth, of Illinois, who called him to order. The Union side of the House, feeling secure in their power, allowed Brooks to proceed for nearly half an hour. During his remarks he asked the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, when he intended to press the resolution passed by the Union caucus of the House on Saturday evening. Stevens was busily engaged in conversation at the time, and did not appear to hear him. Brooks repeated his question, when Stevens arose and with the utmost non-chalance, said: "I propose, sir, to press it when the proper time comes." This was followed by immense applause

and laughter from the floor and the galleries. Mr. Brooks, in the meantime, looking considerably discomfited. Mr. Morrill presented his motion for the election of Speaker, which prevailed. Schuyler Colfax was nominated by the Unionists, and James Brooks by the Democrats. The vote stood: Colfax, 139; Brooks, 35. Colfax was declared elected, and Morrill and Brooks were appointed to conduct him to the chair, when Hon. E. B. Washburne, of Illinois, administered the oath. On taking the chair, Mr. Colfax delivered an admirable address. The oath administered to the Speaker-elect was the "iron-clad oath," about which so much has been said and written; and Speaker Colfax subsequently administered it to all the members of the House entitled to seats. Mr. McPherson was subsequently elected Clerk, a position which he is well qualified to fill. The message of the President will not be sent in until to-morrow. I learn that the action of the Union caucus, held on Saturday evening, had an important influence upon the character of the message, which, although completed at that time, has been somewhat altered since. It will thus be seen that the sentiment of the country upon the great questions of the hour is to be fully sustained. There was very little done in the Senate beyond a mere formal organization. J. M.

News of our Churches.

THE MISSION SABBATH-SCHOOL OF North Broad Street Church was transferred to new and commodious quarters on Montgomery Avenue, Sabbath week. Under the superintendence of Mr. R. S. Walton, it has attained a large measure of usefulness and success, which, we doubt not, be further promoted by the new apartments.

RESIGNATION OF THE REV. DR. DE WITT.—The Rev. Dr. De Witt, one of the pastors of the Presbyterian Church, of Harrisburg has tendered his resignation of all his active ministerial duties of the congregation. At a meeting of the congregation, called by the Trustees, the resignation was unanimously accepted, and the congregation unanimously voted an annual salary of five hundred dollars to Rev. Dr. De Witt, and added five hundred dollars annually to the salary of the Rev. Mr. Robinson.

Dr. De Witt assigned as reasons for his resignation of the active duties of the ministry, his advanced age and bodily infirmities. He commenced his labors in Harrisburg in 1818, and consequently has served forty-seven years as pastor, part of the time associated with the Rev. Thomas H. Robinson, who now assumes the active, and more laborious duties of the office. Resolutions of affection and sympathy, with a cordial invitation to exercise his pastoral visitations amongst the people, were also unanimously passed by the session and the congregation.

A NOTEWORTHY PASTORATE.—We take the following from a Genesee, New York, letter to the Evangelist:—"The New School church in this place has been especially blessed. Two precious revivals have been enjoyed within the past two years. There have been about one hundred additions to its membership within the past six years. Rev. George P. Folsom was called to this church seven years since, soon after a most unhappy division, by which the church lost nearly one-half of its members. Under his judicious and wise pastorate, the church has become strong and vigorous, and has shared largely in the covenant mercies of God's people. Long may he break to them the Bread of Life. Right liberally and loyally may the people sustain and provide for him."

LAY HELPERS.—At the late meeting of the Synod of Wabash, a plan for the employment of lay helpers to aid in supplying spiritual destitutions, was brought forward and handed to a committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Jacob Patch, F. S. McCabe, and G. C. Noyes, to digest and report at the next meeting. Suggestions and propositions, looking in this direction are becoming more frequent. They are the breaking forth into expression of the necessities of the Church and the field, east as well as west. Several of the Christian denominations are moving in the matter, and we shall be much the losers if we delay to fix upon some plan to supplement the ministry with the active and official labors of a portion of our talented and zealous laymen.

COLLECTIONS FOR OUR WORK IN EAST TENNESSEE.—We recently noticed the return of Rev. W. E. Knox, of Rome, New York, from a visit to East Tennessee, as a delegate of our Home Missionary Committee. Mr. Knox proposes, by exchange of pulpits, to lay before congregations in his vicinity, the openings and needs of that region. He spoke, on the 26th ult., to Rev. Dr. Fowler's congregation in Utica, and though, on account of stormy weather, but a small number were present, \$200 were brought in on the plates. Additions to this amount are expected.

DEATH OF A MINISTER.—Information has reached us of the death of Rev. Williston Jones, late United States chaplain, and for several years previous a laborious Home missionary of our Church in the Northwest. He died at Rolla, Missouri, November 20.

THE SYNOD OF MISSOURI ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—The Synod of Missouri, being convened for the first time since the close of the civil war which, for four years, afflicted our country, and the calamities of which peculiarly abounded in the field of our labors, would devoutly record our thankful sense of the goodness of God in bringing that war to an end, by the complete destruction of the military power and political organization of the rebellion, and without surrender or compromise of any of those righteous principles for which our national Government and its loyal people contended. Having unanimously declared and steadily manifested our decided adherence to the Government, throughout its great struggle for the maintenance of our precious national Union, we would now renew our assurance of loyalty, and offer our fervent prayer to God, that sufficient wisdom may be vouchsafed to the national Executive and Congress for the difficult work of restoring order, and the righteous administration of law throughout the States which have been in rebellion. Especially do we invoke this divine guidance in order to the securing, by reliable guarantees, of that liberty which has been given by the war to those who before were enslaved, and which the nation, by its representative ruler, did so solemnly promise to recognize and maintain. Any failure to keep our pledged faith with those who have rendered so essential service in the war; who have been so steadfastly loyal, and who have so implicitly and patiently trusted the

POPISH AIRS OF EPISCOPOAY IN NEW YORK.—Bishop Staley, the lately famous Anglo-Catholic Bishop of Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, now on a visit to this country, recently took part with Bishop Potter in an ordination service. We also find the following in the New York papers:—"The Tractarian services at the Episcopal Church of St. Albans, in Forty-seventh street, were repeated on Sunday, 25th ult., with the usual gorgeous ceremonies, including lighted candles on the altar, genuflexions, the elevation of the offertory, by Bishop Southgate, etc. These services are creating a great commotion among the moderate Episcopalians, the highest of whom are slightly staggered at these ecclesiastical novelties. It may be added, that among the clergy officiating at the services last evening, were Rev. John Henry Hopkins, editor of the Church Journal, the organ of Bishop Potter."

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.—This is a State institution, located at Ann Arbor, of the magnitude of which, we presume, few are aware. There are now in attendance 1051 students, distributed in the three departments of General Literature, Medicine and Law. One assistant professor has recently been added to each of these departments. The University is a State pet, and deservedly so.

JOSEPH BARKER. From our friend Mr. Reginald Radcliffe we learn that, a few evenings since, he presided at a meeting held in Music-hall, Chester, whilst Mr. Barker, the former notorious infidel lecturer, related the course of his wanderings, and of his restoration to the Father's love through Christ Jesus. "It was," Mr. Radcliffe says, "one of the most interesting and instructive addresses I have heard for a long time, most conclusively convincing to infidels, and most instructive to everybody. He will have to undergo, no doubt, intense prejudice; but, if he were the greatest hypocrite (and I believe him to be sincere), such a lecture as I heard by a former infidel, would tend to tear infidelity to shreds."—Revival, London.