OFR OWN COUNTRY.

"Watchman, what of the night?" God henceforward remain, the doctrine of South-ern Christians, and that they were resolved upon its perpetuation as a Christian duty, has sent waymarks along the highway of time, which only the thoughtless pass without pausing for a careful review of the past, and some anxious thought for the future. The transition from the old to the new year is eminently of this character. For the future, we can only trust and pray, girding ourselves for new duties and yet untried allotments. What was the unknown future of last year, has now passed over into the settled posed of three Presbyteries, between thirty facts of the past, and has thus become a fit and forty churches, and we believe about last year, has now passed over into the settled subject for review.

REVIVALS.

tily accepting our anti-slavery basis. During the last fall, they have been largely blest The year opened with the fifth annual observance of that grand conception of modern Christianity, the week of prayer. From year to year this solemn season has risen in interest, has been more extensively observed, and followed with more striking effects. Our revival record of the first few months of the year, coming well down into the spring, was richer than that of any previous year since the great refreshings of 1857. And in far greater numbers than on any previous year, the published accounts of them spoke of their origin in the great week of prayer. Mention was made of this, not only in reports sent up from many of our own Churches, but the same was true throughout the various denominations which participated in the bless-ing. Cases were numerous in which the daily meetings would not close with the close of the week's programme. They were continued of necessity, or at least their discontinuance would have been an act of palpable violence toward the Holy Spirit. Still it cannot be said that, either in our

own churches, or on the Christian field at large, the refreshings of the last winter and spring amounted to a general revival. We are not aware that, in any given district of our country, say as large as an ordinary county, the cases of revival, all denominations in-cluded, would cover one-fourth of the ground; while in most of the territory committed to the American Church, there was ut here and there a sporadic case of what fairly meets our usual views of a revival.

GENERAL PROSPERITY.

But, even with this abatement of the animating aspect of the season under review, it was pleasant to hear from the churches generally the account of more than usual prosperity, both in things spiritual and temporal. Our means of knowing are far from minute, but our candid impression, from all that we have heard, is, that cases of real revival, comparatively few as they have been, are nevertheless more numerous than those of absolute decline.

We are sure that such has been the case in our own Church. The statistical tables in the Minutes of our General Assembly, as compared with those of the preceding year, will show advance in a large majority of the churches-small in many cases, but still an advance. This will hold true in all the particulars which belong to religious prosperity — church membership, Sabbath-school mem-bership, church • edifices and parsonages erected, pastors settled, collections for con-gregational purposes, and contributions for general Christian benevolence. Of church extension we shall speak again.

RETURN OF PEACE.

it. It is worthy of record that the United and Reformed Presbyterian churches have April brought with it the suppression of always refused communion to slaveholders. The German Reformed Church has thus far the great and wicked pro-slavery rebellion, the return of peace, and the conviction, on been silent. all hands, that the flat against slavery, which | It was reserved for the Triennial Convenhad previously gone forth, had thereby re-neirod its fulfillment. Even the mad infatuceived its fulfillment. Even the mad infatuation of the South could not blind itself to State accepted the mortifying conclusion that rebellion was a failure and slavery was dead. This event instantly became a constitute one in the year's history of church enterprise. One of the worst features of the coming on of the rebellion, had consisted in the cultivation of a Southern Church sentiment of inveterate hostility to Northern Christianity, chiefly because of the aggressiveness of the latter upon the slave system; and, in the New School Presbyterian and Methodist bodies, a secession from the national church organizations with which they had been con-nected. The Congregational, Pedobaptist and Baptist churches had no national ecclesiastical organizations, but long prior to the outbreak of the rebellion, the separation of the South from the North was as virtual in those de-nominations as in the other cases mentioned. The Church rebellion for conserving slavery, was the pioneer of the political insurrection for the same end, Immediately following the commencement of the latter, the Southern Churches of the remaining denominations also formed themselves into separate organizations, and the whole territory in rebellion became the field of an organized slaveholding and slave-pro-tecting Christianity, walling itself against any approach of evangelical labor or benevolence from the North.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR. Southern slave holders, including, we are times, there has been within our remem-ashamed to say, the great bulk of Southern brance, no period when so much of public brought it into existence. This will be espe-cially true, if it shall be clothed with an inprofessing Christians outside of the colored churches. From the hour when

our entire ecclesiastical separation from it

became a foregone conclusion. In less than

Still, with apparently fewer advantages than those of some sister denominations, we

believe our part of the work of re-construc-

other one. We have now one Synod, com-

half that number of ministers, in the Tennes-

see field. They come to us on the purely re-construction basis, eminently loyal, and hear-

with the effusions of the Holy Spirit. The Assembly of the Old School Church

of honest and stringent terms of re-union

onger tolerate these errors and scandals.

been very few, and the best men of the latter are satisfied that they should be few, so long

as the religious temper of the South remains

what it is. An energetic effort, inaugurated

has been made, but not extensive as yet.

denominational policy toward the South. It

was one of extension, but avoidance of all complicity with the rebellious or slavehold-

ing spirit. They too are working, not with-out fruit, but in patient waiting for the full

To the Congregationalists, in the absence

of any national organization, and with almost no preemptory hold upon Southern territory, the South is a purely missionary field, to enter and build up *de novo*. They are at

work with their characteristic energy, but as

yet with only moderate success. The Reformed Dutch, United and Reform-

ed Presbyterians, and Lutherans, have established righteous testimony on the subject of religion for the South, and whatever any of

them have done, has been in accordance with

re-union

sheaves.

Ministers from any Southern ecclesiastical

two years it became a fixed fact.

GENERAL CHURCH EXTENSION. In the mean time, neither our own denomvation of men. ination in particular, nor the Church as a whole, has been idle in the work of Church Extension in other parts of our country, particularly those remote regions which are now the goal for a rushing emigration. The mintion will bear comparison with that of any ing territories and States are unquestionably destined to roll back upon the East a tide of influence exactly answering to the religious care or neglect which they now receive. All the circumstances of life in those regions-child the more that of the religious of the religion of the religion of the second destined to roll back upon the East a tide of forbid the expectation that either piety or morality will there be a spontaneous growth. Ine Unurch has heavy responsibilities in that quarter. The past has not been a year of un-mindfulness of those responsibilities. We would gladly speak in more positive terms. We are thankful to say as much as this—that our own Church has relaxed nothing of its ave a large amount of attention to the subject. A minority (such, and beautifully less may they remain!) were earnestly disposed to foothold in Colorado, Montana, and the Pacific coast. Indeed, there has been in the lat-

open the door for the quiet falling in of their 'Southren brethren,'' unquestioned and in-discriminately. The discussion finally termi-nated in the adoption, by a decisive majority, ter a decisive gain. In this connection it is proper to notice the very thorough mountain and coast exploration performed last summer, by the judicious and efficient Secretary of our Home Missionary Committee. Rev. Dr. Kendall. The time body, applying for reception, are to be asked whether they have, of their free will, aided or countenanced the rebellion, and if such is had come when such an enterprise was essen-tial to the intelligent action of the Committee, found to have been the fact, they are to be in laying out plans for church campaigns in that direction. It brought them face to face received only upon confession and renuncia-tion of their sin. They are also to be ques-tioned whether they hold slavery to be a Diwith their work, exposing obstacles, reveal-ing facilities, and designating the points of advantage. In this point of view, the close of the area finder and are largely opfored for that vine institution, and if so, repentance and forsaking the sin, are the prescribed terms of of the year finds us largely enforced for that work, waiting only for the men to make our admission. Presbyteries, as such, cannot be received until full proof is made that they no influence telt with power in that rough realm Under these rules, the changes of rela-tion from the Confederate States Presbyte-rian Church to that of the Old School have of mammon

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The more general view of the Christian vork of the year, in our country, would be ncomplete, without a special notice of the notable era in American Congregationalism. in Kentucky, is now going on to procure the We have before alluded to the fact that the revocation of the action above noticed, and to throw down all barrier to unconditional Congregationalists have no national ecclesiastical organization. They abjure it. In-The Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal deed, the character of ecclesiasticism is gene-Church, in default of the occurrence of any rally denied to any association above the par-ticular church assembled in one locality. General Convention the present year, took official order for the recovery of Southern ground, differing only in form from that of Their church extension work has long felt the embarrassment of this looseness of structure. the Presbyterian churches. Some progress They had a large amount of energy, but there was no point of concentration. The conse-quence was, much of that energy was unde-The Baptist churches have no national church organization, but use, as a bond of union, such national denominational societies veloped, and some portion of, what was deas the Missionary, Publication, &c. The anniversaries of these societies took place last spring, in the city of St. Louis. They settled, within their respective spheres, their veloped was injudiciously expended and pretty much lost.

The problem was, how to secure the bene-fits of a national unity without compromising the "standing or falling" doctrine of the denomination, the perfect independence of the local church. The great National Council of last summer was the result of the deliberation of that question. It was a con vention of delegates from churches in many and widely separated States, and yet it ig-nored being the embodiment of the church authority, without which "delegation" is a nonentity. It was indebted to the inconsistency of its organization for the great effi-ciency which it is now in the way of exerting. It gave power to the denomination just in proportion as it was most virtually Presbyterian in the very features in which it claimed to be most purely Congregational.

Its chief mission was to start a system of more vigorous effort for general evangelism, carrying along with it the peculiartices of Congregationalism. An exceedingly well-de-vised plan for securing the money material for the enterprise was adopted. By simultaneous church collections, on a given Sab-bath, accompanied with individual solicitations, a sum of at least \$200,000 was to be raised, and a much larger amount was hoped for. The third Sabbath of the last month was named for the collections, which, taking into account the wealth and giving habits of New England, we presume to have been a

protessing Ouristians outside of the colored is prespect and infidence was accorded to religion can be clothed with an in-churches. From the hour when, thirteen version and its ministers and churches as now. The fuence which will draw out the personal activity of Christians in the work of God. by an unqualified declaration that the Divine religion of the loyal States has well earned this meed from the public. which opens a new era of general, self-sacri-ficing and well-applied lay effort for the sal-

> MINISTERIAL RECORD. MONTHEY.

Ballantine, Henry, Pres. O. S.-Died at sea Nov. 9, while returning from 30 years' service as missionary of the Am. Board in India

become teacher in Ottumwa, same State. Clarke, Samuel S., Pres. N. S.-Supplying

Dole, A. G., Ger. Ref.—Resigned pastorate at Milton, Pa. Goodrich, W., Ger. Ref.—Resigned pastorate

Goodrich, w., Ger. Hei.—Hesighed pastorates at Bloomsburg, Pa. Gruham, James B., Pres. O. S.—Resigned pastorate at Norristown, Ohio. Graham, Samuel, Pres. O. S.—Ordained and installed at Mill Creek, S. W. Pa., Nov. 20.Haight, J. B., Pres. O. S.-Ordained and

installed at Oxford, O., Nov. 28. Hough, J. W., Pres. N. S.—Installed at Sa-ginaw City, Mich., Nov. 22. Jones, Williston, Pres. N. S.—Died at Rolla,

Constantine, Mich., to Green Bay, Wis. McKee, Samuel, Pres. O. S.-Installed at

McKee, Samuel, Pres. O. S.—Installed at Kendallville, Ind., Nov. 17.
Magee, Irving, Luth.—Installed over Second Luth. Church, Baltimore, Nov. 19.
Marsh, E., Pres. N. S.—Changed residence from Canton to Washington, Ill.
Marshall, Joseph H., Pres. O. S.—Transfer-red from Doddsville to Perry, Ill.
Martin, Asa, Pres. N. S.—Died in Mahaska Co., Iowa, Nov. 9.
Newberry, Scimuel, Pres. N. S.—Appointed Dist. Sec. of Am. (Boston) Tract Soc. for Iowa.

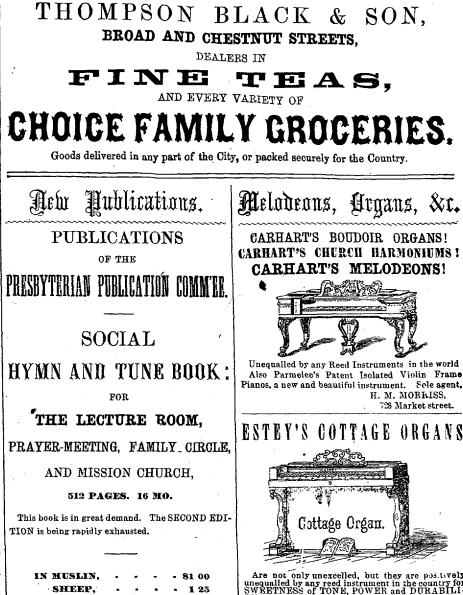
Iowa. Park, W. J., Pres. O. S.—Ordained and installed at Fredericksburg, O., Nov. 7. Reeve, Tapping S., Pres. N. S.—Transfer-red from Rushville to Lacon, Ill. Root, L. J., Pres. N. S.—Changed residence from Madina to Locknort, N. Y. Root, L. J., Pres, N. S.—Changed residence from Medina to Lockport, N. Y.
 Rosseter, F. L., Pres. N. S.—Transferred from Huron, O., to Baraboo, Wis.
 Sebring, Elbert N., Ref. Dutch.—Ordaged and installed at Ghent, N. Y., Nov. 15."
 Sherwin, John C., Pres. N. S.—Transferred from La Crosse to West Salem, Wis.
 Sloat, A. J., Pres. O. S.—Installed over churches in Milford and Holland, N. J., Nov. 30.

Nov. 30. Thom, J. C., Pres. O. S.—Died recently in St. Louis, Mo. *Thompson, S. H.*, Pres. O. S.—Installed over churches in Tuckerton and Bass River,

 N. J., Nov. 22.
 Thorburn, A. M., Pres. N. S.—Installed at Ogden, N. Y., Nov. 21.
 Van Vranken F. V. Ref. Dutch.—Resigned Van Vranken F. V., Kef. Dutch.—Resigned pastorate at Lysander, N. Y.
Voorhus, Stephen, Pres. N. S.—Resigned pastorate at Hammondsport, N. Y.
Wallace, C. W., Pres. N. S.—Transferred from Coshocton, O., to Seymour, Ind.
Wight, Ambrose, Pres. N. S.—Installed at Bay City, Mich., Nov. 23.

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SOUTHERN EVANGELIZATION.

But for some time previous to the final triumph of the Government, the enterprise of the Northern Churches had been making itself felt in gradual encroachments upon that dark spiritual iniquity, as the reconquest of territory opened the way. Missions for Freedmen, had been pretty extensively insuituted, and in some localities churches composed of citizens, some of whom had kept pure their fidelity to the Union, and others of whom were more than satisfied to return to it, broke off their Southern ecclesiastical connections, and sought readmission to their former relations. Our Church was already. thus occupying important positions in East Tennessee. The Methodist Episcopal, and we believe the Baptist, had also raised anew their banner on here and there a reclaimed spot.

Peace at once laid the whole South open to such enterprise. At least, it removed the obstructions of military lines and bristling bayonets, and left only a moral opposition, teeming with the old pro-slavery leaven, to contend against a Gospel which recognises the manhood of our race.

DENOMINATIONAL WORK SOUTH.

This new phase of our Christian duty toward the South received the earnest attention of the great ecclesiastical meetings of the last spring. Our own Assembly, regarding compactness of machinery as an element of efficiency in all its church extension work, charged its existing Home Missionary agency

disgraceful church exhibition of the year from the loyal States. Their action is so re-cent, and has received so large animadver-Southern Diocece:, with their organizations intact, and nothing of the past revoked. To

give the highest force to this invitation, the Convention deliberately, and by an overwhelming majority, voted down proposals of thanks-giving for the suppression of the rebellion and destruction of slavery. But the expected price for this treason to the cause of righteousness, has thus far been paid in only partial measure. The question yet remains whether Southern Episcopacy, as a whole, will accept any ecclesiastical relation with the North. The Southern Convention has since met and taken action. It resolved to maintain its separate existence, simply consenting that any of the dioceses which might so desire, should return to the General Convention. Indeed, the action of all the chief ecclesiastical bodies of the South has been sternly and implac-ably against church re-union with the North.

THE FREEDMEN.

In the mean time, every leading denominaion has laid itself out for work among the Freedmen—some through Church bureaus of their own, specially erected for the purpose, and others through their permanent departments of evangelistic effort, or through outside associations. This work has been extensive and rich in fruits. Most of the Southern religious bodies have breasted themselves against what they call the interference of the Northern fanatics with the spiritual affairs of their colored population, insisting that they themselves best know how to adapt religious instruction and care to their wants. But the confidence of the Freedmen in the sincerity of the Christian friendship of the South is broken, and they turn instinctively to the North for sympathy, and receive its mission-aries, teachers, books, and other aids, with the fervent gratitude which is characteristic of their race

THE CHURCH SUPPORTING THE COUNTRY.

With the remarkable exception above named, the religious bodies of the loyal States

responded to the great goodness of God in the conquest of rebellion, the return of peace, and the bringing upon slavery its doom, in line of its purpose is evangelical work, by sentiments of high-toned patriotism and fervent gratitude. Scarcely an ecclesiastical meeting, large or small, has been held since April, which failed to give unambiguous and outspoken utterance to this feeling. The same thing is true of other religious associations, such as the Bible, Tract, and Foreign Missionary societies. The act of the last Con-gress, laying before the Status for ratification the proposed Constitutional amendment, sethe proposed Constitutional amendment, se-curing the eternal prohibition of slavery in our Republic, was warmly seconded by the voice of the Church. The year has deepened the impression, which for the last five years, has so gained upon the candor of the people at large that the sympathy of the Church for

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Very incomplete would be any notice of the home history of the year, which should pass over the closing up of the affairs and existence of the United States Christian Commission. It is interesting to record concerning it, that there was no decay, no running D.D.; Dr.C. A. Finley, U.S. Army; Samuel Field, out, but that it expired by its own constitutional limitation. It was brought into exist-ence for one special work. How generously, faithfully, and with what self-sacrificing spirit, this work was done; what a record of salva-tion has been rolled up as its memorial-human lives saved, and immortal souls saved -are things too well known to need repeat-ing here. In this work it went on, expend-ing its millions of treasures, and scores of years of personal effort, abounding more, until the return of peace fulfilled the tenure of its mission. It retired from existence simply because its work was all done.

The Ohristian public were not satisfied to give it up. There were many who felt that an agency so Catholic, so extensive, so ener-getic, and possessing so tenacious a hold upon the confidence of the good, ought not thus to be lost to the cause of Christ. Much desire was expressed that it should so reconstruct itself, as to become among the needy and neglected, in time of peace, the same counsellor and helper which it had been to the sufferers in time of war. The Commission considered these views patiently and prayer-fully, and finally reached the conclusion that t was best to adhere to its purpose of disbanding at the close of the war. During the summer and autumn, it gradually contracted its work, and on the first of Jánuary closed up its offices.

THE NEW COMMISSION.

to the new state of things in the country, partaking of the leading characteristics of the Commission, gave birth to a new national enterprise. This was provisionally organized last summer in Cleveland, by a meeting of Divines and Christian laymen from various parts of the Union, presided over by Chief Justice Chase. It took the name of the American Christian Commission. The outword and deed, among the classes, North and South, whom all existing agencies, churches included, have thus far failed to effect. We believe that the details of the plan are still under discussion, but it is expected that they will soon be developed in action. Of this much it has been careful to give assurance, that it will avoid friction with any regular church work, making of itself not a rival or disturber, but a subsidiary aid of the established institutions of the Gospel. We know not how much it may be embarrassed by the effect upon the Christian public, of the apprehensions thrown out by several of the religious papers, that it will become intrusive upon their institutions. Our own with the execution of our church work in at large, that the sympathy of the Church for that direction. We had comparatively little the purity and well-being of the State is in ground to reclaim. Our Church had for valuable. With all that is said (much of it many years enjoyed a bad reputation among untruly) of the spiritual degeneracy of the warm-hearted churches and ministers to re-

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