

REV. A. M. STEWART'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, January 13, 1866. All efforts for the instruction and elevation of the Freedmen should be thoroughly imbued with the religion of Christ. Every such movement should be constrained by love to God. Our grand systems of common school education at the North have generally become divorced from direct religious influences.

RELIGION OF THE COLORED PEOPLE. The existence of so many millions of Africa's children among us Anglo-Saxons remains to a goodly degree an unsolved problem. It may be, they have been allotted to us as the future conservators of true religion, and hence to maintain the stability of our free institutions.

MELANCHOLY WORSHIP. Sad is it for me to be present when these poor people engage of themselves in holding religious service. Their dog-gare and almost senseless songs drawn out in low, plaintive minor keys—the too often unmeaning jargon of their preachers and exhorters—their groans, shouts, laughs, slapping of hands and general bodily exercise, all give tokens of long bondage.

COLORED CONGREGATIONS. A rather easy matter is it, where they are in sufficient numbers, to gather a colored congregation, yet not usually so easy to accomplish this in connection with the undemonstrative, spiritual and scriptural order as practiced in the various Presbyterian families.

OUR WORK IN ALEXANDRIA. The religious missionary was the leading object in organizing efforts among the Freedmen in this city. Nor should this leading idea ever be abandoned. Without any effort at sectarianism, religious worship is conducted in the mission according to the order of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

News of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE. All Government Employees at Fortress Monroe, formerly connected with the rebel service, have been discharged, for fear of their aiding the plot to secure Jefferson Davis' escape.

CONGRESS. Senate.—January 16.—The resolutions requesting the President to withdraw our Minister from England and issue a proclamation of non-intercourse, were debated and laid on the table—yeas 25, nays 12.

January 17.—Ten thousand copies of the President's Message, and Gen. Grant's Report on the Condition of the South, were ordered to be printed. A resolution was introduced calling for information of the condition of affairs on the Rio Grande.

January 19.—Mr. Doolittle presented the credentials of Judge Marvin, Senator elect from Florida, and endorsed his loyalty. After debate they were laid on the table.

January 20.—A bill was passed extending the time for the completion of the Burlington and Missouri railroad. The bill enlarging the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau was taken up and debated.

THE STATES. Pennsylvania.—Governor Curtin arrived at New York from Havana January 17.—Mrs. Grider, the Pittsburgh poisoner, was hanged Jan. 19. She made a confession.

then they have generally commanded a large premium. Massachusetts.—During the year ending May, 1865, 7,249,921 pairs of boots, and 24,620,660 pairs of shoes, were manufactured in this State.

Kentucky.—Efforts are being made to send John C. Breckinridge to the United States Senate from Kentucky. Tennessee.—John Bell has begun a series of letters in the Louisville Journal on public affairs.

Wisconsin.—Gov. Stone, at his reinauguration, January 11, said: "Sound policy can never sanction the disfranchisement of four millions of freed people, whose loyal ballots would constitute them an army of occupation to the Government in the South."

PAPERS ON JEFF DAVIS' TRIAL. The following papers, submitted to Congress Jan. 10th, exhibit the policy of the Executive as far as developed in regard to the rebel President and his associates. They are of sufficient importance to be given entire.

Financial.—The public debt decreased from August to December, \$41,000,000.—The current fiscal year's receipts of internal revenue will be over \$200,000,000.

FOREIGN. Mexico.—A letter from Brazos, of the 7th, to the New Orleans Times, says:—Bagdad was captured on the morning of the 5th. The attacking party consisted of sixty men. They captured nearly 300 prisoners, one half of whom turned Liberals, and formed the garrison of town on the attacking party disappearing.

France.—Napoleon gave the usual New Year's reception to the diplomatic body, and expressed his happiness that the past year had strengthened the bonds of peace, and was an augury for a long day of peace and prosperity over the world.

state of war still exists in the territory in rebellion. Until peace shall come in fact, and in law, they can rightfully be held as prisoners of war.

Some prominent rebels were personally present at the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania, but all or nearly all of them received military paroles upon the surrender of the rebel armies. Whilst I think that these paroles are not an ultimate protection for prosecutions for high treason, I have thought that it would be a violation of the paroles to prosecute those persons for crimes before the political power of the Government has proclaimed that the rebellion has been suppressed.

THE CITY. Judge Allison on Jan. 16 sentenced Wm. Aston to pay a fine of \$1000 and undergo an imprisonment of seven years, for injuring a man by shooting him with a pistol, this being the extent of the law.

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MISCELLANEOUS. The Colored Press.—The Independent makes the following enumeration of papers now conducted by colored men: At New Orleans, The Tribune, a daily, is owned and edited by colored men, and conducted with great ability.

Items.—The Emperor Napoleon receives five millions of dollars a year, and the Empress one million. Queen Victoria receives about two millions.—The high price of paper, it is said, has induced the New York Tribune to import paper from Belgium.

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