American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1866.

THE FREEDMEN OF THE SOUTH. BEING RESULTS OF PERSONAL OBSER-VATIONS.

The opinion very generally prevails in the North, that the Emancipation Proclamation, which secures freedom to the slaves, improves at once their social condition. Such is not the case, as facts abundantly attest in almost every Southern State.

It is quite true, the Freedmen have been delivered from the cruel bondage of their former task masters, but it must not be forgotten they have a transition state to pass through, in the adjustment of the free-labor question, confronted by lawlessness, prejudice, and social disorder, before they can reach the promised land of security, peace, and tranquility: where requited labor will receive a just recognition.

The Southern mind must be taught. under the new regime, that all men are created free and equal; and that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is the inalienable right of all men, without regard to color or condition. They must also learn to respect the authority of law and be subject to the powers that be, as ordained of God. Hitherto, such perverse interpretation, for the most part, has been given to the law, human and Divine, by their most astute jurists and learned casuists, that the masses of the people have been brought to believe that slavery was an institution of Divine appointment.

Now that this system has been destroyed, it is a question of vital interest to every philanthropist to ascertain the true status of those (the Freedmen) who are to be benefitted by this revolution in the social fabric of the South. Leading minds there very generally entertain the belief, and do not hesitate to give expression to it, (as we can testify), that "the mistaken philanthropy of the North in liberating the slaves will be made apparent in the complete extinction of the colored race from Southern soil." Such an issue would be received generally as a retaliatory measure for "Northern officiousness and fanaticism."

The expectation of such a result is shadowed forth in the following paragraph from the pastoral address of a recent General Assembly (O. S.) in the South:-

"The other consideration connected with this subject (slavery) is the prethat with their prospects, to human view dismal as the grave, our Church is not illustrating Gospel truth.

chargeable; that it may hold up its hands

At this time the thermometer, which had tremendous responsibility involved in do it quickly, for they already begin to pass rapidly away. Should our worst fears be realized, and their doom be sealed, you will have a pure conscience at the bar of the Final Judge."

In almost every cotton State, the mortality of the Freedmen, since the termination of the war, has been almost incredible. Disease and starvation are decimating them to an extraordinary extent. Within the last six months, not Ass than twenty thousand have died in more at Savannah, Baton Rouge, and other principal points. In Georgia, the prospect is melancholy in the extreme. It has been stated by one whose judgment may be relied on, "that unless something was done for their relief immediately, thirty thousand would probably die of starvation before February."

This sad state of things in Georgia is a fair representation of other extreme Southern States. It is generally believed in the South, that one-fourth, if not one-third, of the colored population have | nations in the town and vicinity, aided in the already passed away. If this fearful mortality is to be arrested, it must be done, and that speedily, by the friends of revived, "the boarders" who had been mere humanity in the North; as comparatively little sympathy is either felt or exercised for these poor creatures by those who once held them in servitude. Then they possessed a pecuniary value in each individual slave, in proportion to his age or physical endurance. If sickness would come upon him, good nursing and the best medical skill were not wanting for his restoration.

But a change has come over them. A gentleman residing near Natchez, who ing that he is able and willing to save all that before the war was an extensive planter. "stated that his slaves cost him from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars in gold. Then it was his interest to care for them. Now that they had left a mere temporary excitement got up among him, it was a matter of little concern to him whether they lived or died." This best intelligence and capacity, tradesmen, feeling is quite prevalent throughout the merchants and professional men, officers and South, and is becoming more intensified soldiers in the late war, who had faced death as the Freedmen are separated from their former masters, and decline to enter into moral in their lives, the rich and the poor, labor contracts with them. More than the rude and the refined, the learned and the this, -the utmost rigor and severity is practised towards them. Shooting, burning, and hanging are not unfrequently resorted to for the most trivial offences, for the purpose of "losing the black population," to use a phrase familiar to many.

Mr. R., of W- County, Alabama, a lawyer of great intelligence and respectability, knew a man residing in an adjoining county, who had made off with twenty-seven negroes, most of whom were tied to trees and shot, and their It would be interesting to those who had not low spite.

dead bodies became food for buzzards. He was asked by the writer, why he did not give information of this individual are too full of thankfulness to God for His not give information of this individual practising such cruelty and barbarism. He replied, had be done so, his life and dwelling would both be in jeopardy, and to take ground in behalf of the blacks on any occasion, or for any cause, subjects the individual to great unpopularity. Hence, law is a nullity, and becomes wholly inoperative when the rights of the colored population are invaded. He expressed the opinion very freely that one-fourth of the colored race had already become extinct in the South.

These, and kindred facts of daily occurrence, serve to exhibit the sad and melancholy condition of our colored brethren in the South. When will the sympathies of the North be brought into exercise commensurate with their sufferings? J. S. C.

REVIVAL IN TOWANDA, PA.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:-The readers of the American Presbyterian will be interested to hear of the work of the Holy Spirit in Towanda, Pa. The Old School Presbyterian clergyman stated to an audience in Athens, yesterday, that out of a population of twenty-five hundred, over four hundred have found the Saviour, and night after night over half of the town have been crowded into the church, and it seems as though the whole population of the town had either found the Saviour or were anxious about their souls. The work is spreading in the towns around rapidly. It seems as if every Christian in the town were in sympathy with this work. The Episcopalian clergyman, Rev. B. J. Douglass, and his whole church were earnest workers. He accompanied the Rev. Mr. Hammond to Athens, yesterday, as the Old School Presbyterian minister, Rev. Mr. Harris, did also, where they held two very solemn meetings. I clip the enclosed from the Bradford Re-

THE GREAT REVIVAL IN TOWANDA.

A series of religious meetings has been going on in Towanda for the last two weeks, forming the most remarkable era in the history of the place. Rev. Edward Payson Hammond came down from Elmira, where he had been preaching for four weeks, on the 6th inst., and has held one or two meetings here daily until the 18th. He first appeared on Saturday night, at a meeting in behalf of Sunday Schools. On Sunday he spoke in the Methodist Church, and the same afternoon he addressed a large audience of children and others, in his peculiar manner, which has given him his world-wide reputation as the children's preacher. His message from God, like good seed, "fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit" in the conversion of with this subject (sievery) is the present condition of the Freedmen. We children's meeting. He preached a powerful discourse, or rather series of short discourses, wretchedness, already incalculably great; on Sunday night, enchaining for hours the attention of a large and unwearied congregation by his peculiarly interesting mode of

before heaven and earth, washed of the fallen suddenly about the time Mr. Hammond left Elmira, had got down to thirteen degrees below zero, but after that long-to-be-rememthis change in the condition of nearly | bered cold Monday morning, the weather modfour millions of bond servants, and for erated; very soon it got above the freezing which it has hitherto been generally con. | point, and in a few days, there was a great ceded they were unprepared. . . . Do all you can for their best welfare, and beautiful weather collections. Beautiful weather collections are the property of the good work in the hearts of the property of the good work in the hearts of the property of the good work in the hearts of the property of the thank God! "the sun of Righteousness arose with healing in his wings." Bither the devil had got ahead of God's messenger, or the people of Towanda had not had their spiritual sleep out, and "were waked up cross" to quote one of Mr. Hammond's illustrations. To describe what followed after the tide

turned, is far beyond the power of the writer. The history of the conversion of a single sinner, a description of that wonderful thing, a change of heart, must ever be a futile attempt. It must be felt to be fully understood. But how can we depict the scene where hundreds of all ages were "converted and became as little children." As the coldthe vicinity of Natchez; and as many ness at the beginning of the meetings was not peculiar to any denomination, so the awakening was general and simultaneous. The "shallow sectarian pools on the shore were obliterated" by the incoming spring-tide of the ocean of Christian love. Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians filled the largest churches in town, and sometimes the Court House to overflowing; many persons often standing during services protracted to three or four hours, refusing to go away after the meeting was dismissed more than once, filling the seats, aisles and standing-places sometimes till near midnight, in the most extraordinary manner. Aarons and Hurs, the clergy of all the different denomigood work, and above all the voice of fervent prayer from the hearts and lips of thousands ascended to Heaven. Old Christians were inmates in the house of God, many of whom had not (or thought they had not) done enough for the family to even pay for their board, became active, working Christians, discovering that it was not enough to pray to God to save sinners, without themselves saying a word in season to them, or reaching out a hand to help them. Hundreds upon hundreds who had heretofore "cared for none of these things," gave themselves up wholly to Jesus and confessed their sins, renounced all self-righteousness, looked to the cross and were healed, depending alone on Christ and him crucified, and finding comfort in believcome unto him, while many anxious inquir-ers, saying "what shall we do to be saved," listened with breathless interest to the answer

of Christian friends, "Jesus has done it all." Let no one who reads this suppose this is weak-minded women and children. On the contrary, men and women of all ages, of the in many battles, tavern-keepers, the profane and vicious, and those who had been strictly ignorant, the talented and the simple-minded, bowed together at the foot of the cross, friends rejoiced together, and foes were reconciled.

It is very difficult to estimate the numbers of anxious inquirers and hopeful converts, but we think we may safely say that at least four hundred, in this town of twenty-five hundred people, gave outward evidence of conversion, or committed themselves by a public declaration in some form of a wish to be on the Lord's side.

message to think of, or even take time to thank His messenger. January 19, 1866.

A JUDICIOUS APPOINTMENT. - GOV. Curtin has appointed Judge Joseph Allison, Presiding Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, in place of the late Judge Thompson, and the Hon. William S. Pierce, Associate.

Aews of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

Gen. Sheridan telegraphed, January 25, that he had arrested "General" Crawford, so much mixed up with the troubles at Bagdad, Mexico.—Hon. Nicholas Smith, of Kansas, has been appointed Minister to Greece—the first American Minister to that country.—The French Minister at Washington has stated his satisfaction at the prompt action taken by the United States to punish those engaged in the recent attack on Bag-

Some very unsatisfactory and unwise things are reported to have been uttered recently by the President to Senator Dixon. He is reported as having expressed a doubt as to the propriety of further amending the Constitution at this time. One great amendment had been made, which was enough for the present. If the basis of representation was to be changed it could be done by apportioning representatives according to the number of voters, and taxation according to the value of the property in each State. This would, he thought, place the basis of representation upon correct principles. It would remove discussions as to the political equality of the races from Congress, and leave the States to determine the qualifications of their voters. The agitation of the negro-franchise question in the District of Columbia, he thought, was ll-timed, and a mere entering wedge to its agitation throughout the States.

CONGRESS.

Senate.—January 23.—Mr. Sumner gave notice of a proviso to the bill admitting Colorado as a State, enacting negro suffrage. The Freedmen's Bureau bill was debated. January 24.—The Freedmen's Bureau was under discussion, Garrett Davis vainly and absurdly trying to delay the action by offer-ing amendments and making speeches. The Senate refused to strike out the section giving the negroes the title to the Sea Island cotton lands for three years—yeas 10, nays 32.

January 25.—The bill enlarging the power of the Freedmen's Bureau was passed—yeas 37, nays 10. Mr. Buckalew voted nay. Mr.

lowan was absent. January 26.—The Committee on Pensions was instructed to inquire into the expediency of the payment of pensions to the widows of enlisted men employed as artificers. The House bill for the extension of time for the withdrawal of goods for consumption from public store houses, was passed. A bill for the relief of seamen and others, wrecked or lost in the naval service, was passed. A discussion on the appointment of Provisional Governors in the Southern States, then took place. A motion to reconsider the Freed-men's Bureau bill was lost.

January 29.—The bill restricting fees to agents for soldiers' claims passed. Thanks

were voted to Farragut and his men.

House.—January 23.—A resolution was passed ordering a committee to inquire into the expediency of taking a census in 1866.

The amendment to the Constitution establishing a basis of representation was taken. lishing a basis of representation was taken up. Mr Stevens demanded the previous question, but opposition being made in the Republican ranks, he withdrew it. Adjourn

ed without action.

January 24.—The amendment to the Constitution, establishing the basis of representation, was debated.

the basis of representation was debated, but no action was taken.

January 26.—The Committee on Elections made a majority report that Mr. Coffroth has prima facie right to the contested seat in Pennsylvania; and a minority report that Mr. Koontz was entitled to it. No action was taken. The Committee of Ways and Means were ordered to inquire into the expediency of refusing drawbacks on articles exported to countries adjoining the United states. The Constitutional amendment was The vote on it was ordered to be taken on Tuesday next.
January 27.—The President's message was

discussed in Committee. January 29.-Thanks were voted to the President for his example in refusing the present of a carriage. Gen. Sherman was formally introduced amid great applause.

THE STATES.

Pennsylvania.—In the State Senate, Jan. 23, a report was made about the bribery case last winter, exonerating the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company. Resolutions were passed, endorsing negro suffrage in the District of Columbia.

New York.—The Columbian Marine Insurance Company has failed. Its liabilities will reach \$6,000,000.——A New York stock broker, on January 23d, caught a pickpocket robbing him, and beat the thief terribly, until 1865, 125,000,000 letters passed through the New York Postoffice. The office netted to the Government \$1,503,174 22 profit over the expenses. -- The internal revenue collections in the city and county of New York for the year 1865, are estimated at fifty millions of dollars. —The funeral of the late James Boorman, Esq., took place January 28th, from his late residence in Washington square. The religious services were held in Presbyterian Church in Mercer Street. The attendance of merchants, bankers, lawyers, and officers of various benevolent associations. was very numerous. Eulogies of theldeceased were pronounced by Rev. Drs. Cox and Booth. Among the pall-bearers were A. R. Wetmore, Daniel Lord, and Adam Norris, Esqs. The remains were taken to Greenwood.—Gonzales and Pellicier, who murdered Senor Oters, will be hanged on March -The census taken for 1865 in the State of New York, shows the number of native born voters in the city of New York to be 51,500, while the naturalized voters number

New Jersey.—The Legislature has passed the Constitutional amendment, abolishing slavery.—The grand jury of Mercer County 'presented' the students of Princeton College for their lawless conduct.

Illinois.—The farmers, forty miles from Chicago, find it cheaper to haul their grain to the city than to pay the railroad freights up-

Dist. Columbia,—There are 23,000 colored persons in Washington.

Kentucky.—The Senate has passed a bill incorporating a bank to be controlled by the negroes of Louisville. The bank is prohibited from having any connection with the Freedmen's Bureau, and the charter prohib-After this long report, the editor adds: its any one being an officer "who has ever Let it not be thought ungracious that we lived in Boston." These are doubtless unhave so little to say about Mr. Hammond. constitutional and impotent exhibitions of

Virginia.—Gen. Terry, of Virginia, has conferred upon all the officers of the Freedmen's Bureau in that State the power of Provost Marshals.

Tennessee.—The bill permitting negroes o testify in the courts has passed the Assemoly by 44 to 32. The Senate concurred in this action the next day. --- Gov. Brownlow is decidedly opposed to the recognition of Tennessee as reconstructed. In a letter to Judge Kelley, he says:—"Should the Federal Government turn us over to the tender mercies of the galvanized, amnestied and pardoned rebels of Tennessee, I will take my family and go North, and live and die in peace." Yet he wishes her Congressmen to be admitted to their seats.

North Carolina.-The court that ordered a negro to be sold into slavery has been placed under arrest by the Freedmen's Bureau.-The editor of the Charlotte (N. C.) Times has been sentenced by court martial to a fine of three hundred dollars for seditious publications.

South Carolina.—The military commander in South Carolina has been compelled to issue stringent orders protecting the Freed men from oppressive legislation.

Georgia.—At a late convention of negro at Augusta, resolutions were adopted oppo-sing universal suffrage, but favoring suffrage for such blacks as can read and write. Georgia is gradually extending all civil rights the negro.

Alabama. - Petitions, asking that the roops be not withdrawn, are being sent to he President from Alabama. Louisiana.—Sixty citizens residing near

of murdering negroes. Colorado.-Governor Cummings has sent a message to the Legislature in favor of ne-gro suffrage in this Territory.

Shreveport, have been arrested on the charge

Hon. Oswald Thompson, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, died January 23, aged fifty-seven.—The losses by fire in Philadelphia during 1865 were \$1,269,499. There were 436 fires.—It is proposed to buy a parcel of ground to complete Fairmount Park. The gross amount of damages allowed is \$486,199, while the assessed valuation of the same property for the purposes of taxation is but \$50,900. The property may be worth \$150,000, yet it is proposed to make the city pay more than \$486,000 for it.— The number of pupils in Girard College on the first of January, 1865, was 563, and on the 1st of January, 1866, 500. During the year, 54 were bound out, or their indentures cancelled, and 9 of the pupils are out on trial.—The eightieth anniversary of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, was held January 25th. The following officers were elected: President—James J. Barclay; Vice-Presidents—Wm. Shippen, M.D., Joseph R. Chandler; Treasurer—William Duane; Secretaries—John J. Lytle, Edward Townsend; Counsellors—Henry J. Williams, Charles Gibbons; with a large and highly respectable Acting Committee—The tenth and able Acting Committee. The tenth an nual meeting of the Society of the Union Temporary Home for Children was held Jan. 25; number in the Home, 63. The health of the children has been excellent, there having been no serious illness, and no deaths during the year.

In fact, there has been but one death in the institution for the last five years. The property occupied by the Home was purchas ed by the Society about seven years ago for \$20,000, of which one-half was paid in cash,

The Meteor, a fast steamer, constructed by the merchants of Boston for chasing the Alabama, was seized in New York harbor upon suspicion of being used for privateering purposes by her present owners, in the ser vice of Chili against Spain. She had cleared for Panama.—Nearly all the Southern Congressmen, finding their chances of admis-January 25.—The amendment regulating sion hopeless, have returned home.

The Freedmen.-The New York Freed men's Relief Association state that their receipts during the year 1865 amounted to \$250,341 51. The balance in the treasury on the 1st of January was \$15,719 97; amount of supplies on hand, \$25,563 09.

Financial.—The amount of national bank currency now issued is \$245,866,510.—The continued receipts of cotton at the Southern ports are equal to affording exchanges sufficient to meet the present scale of importa-tion, without much loss of bullion or transmssion of United States stocks. -- As the process of moving the cotton crop progresses, all indications go to show a supply of not less than 2,500,000 bales. These probabilities must soon exercise an influence upon the cotton market and the current high prices of domestic cotton fabrics.—The custom receipts for January will be \$11,000,000 in gold.—The internal revenue receipts for last week, were \$4,340,000; on Monday, they were one and a half million.

FOREIGN.

Great Britain. - The Times insists that the prevailing financial stringency in that country, results from overtrading and overtrusting in the American markets. On the contrary, a letter from Liverpool, in the Daily News, points out that while the exports to America for eleven months amounted to about £16, 000,000, the shipments of cotton to Liver pool from America during the last three months are valued at fully £13,000,000 sterling. A writer in the Times asserts that the shipments to America, down to the end of October, are all paid for; that enormous pro fits have been realized, and that remittances from importers in the States were never more promptly and fully made; indeed the leading houses have for months past constantly and largely anticipated their indebtedness in England.—The English revenue for 1865 was nearly \$350,000,000.—Fearful storms have prevailed in England. There has been great damage done to shipping. The storms broke down the telegraph connecting Liverpool and London.

France.—The majority of the French Cabinet are in favor of withdrawing the French troops from Mexico.—The Emperor of the French on New Year's day, announced his intention of preserving peace with the United States, but intimated that he would not abandon Maximillian so long as there was any danger of the United States interfering against

Spain.—Soldiers, in detached places, have revolted and left their quarters. One party has Gen. Prim at its head.—The Madrid correspondent of the London Times, writing on the 5th, says Madrid was in a state of siege, and in every probability would soon be blockaded. It was difficult to collect trustworthy intelligence, and next to impossible to transmit it, while the Government papers only wrote to conceal and disguise the truth. The Government report says :- "The dispersion of the insurgents is complete. Tranquility prevails throughout the country.

Mexico.—President Juarez has officially proclaimed El Paso del Norte the capital of the Mexican Republic. The Chilian Government has made overtures for the purchase of the U.S. iron-clad for the Ladies.



To the Ladies.

LOOK c'er the fashions which old pictures show, As they prevailed some fifty years ago; At least that phase of fashion which conveys Hints of those instruments of torture—STATE! And then compare the old, complex machine, With that which in these modern days is seen: No more of steel and whalebone is the chest, Or side, o. liver, terribly compressed; No more are curving ribs, or waving spine Twisted and tortured out of Beauty's line For skill and relence both unite to show How much σ , ealth to dress do women owe.

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