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lev. John W. Mears, Editor and Publisher

## American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1866.

### THE OTHER BRANCH ON UNION.

Our brethren of the other branch do seem be waking up pretty extensively on the ubject of Presbyterian Union. The cerainty that the Southern section of their Church has settled, perhaps for a generation, its ecclesiastical independence, leads them to consider more seriously the problem of union with the remaining Presbyterian bodies of the North. The Presbyterian of this city, habitually reticent or cold on the subject hitherto, now seems about to change its course, and to adopt a more genial tone. It commences an article on "Union of Presbyterians," a column and a half long, with the following sentence, which sounds like the announcement of an entirely new policy on the part of its conductors:

"The corollary from the failure to reunite the Northern and Southern portions of the Presbyterian Church, is the union of the Old School and New School Presbyterians of the North."

The matter seems to lie in the editor's mind in the form of a logical or mathematso many words, declare the time for union changed. come; he notices the fact of St. Louis being the meeting-place of both Assemblies, as ignificant, and says these bodies should give some "more clear, pronounced, unmistakable utterances on the subject, than they have been accustomed to do." The whole article is such, that any one familiar with the characteristic tone of the paper for many years, must notice in a moment, pon perusing it, that the Presbyterian has ot upon a far more elevated position, as to uestions of large ecclesiastical bearing, nd has somewhat suddenly learned to andle them with scarcely a trace of nar-

Indications of progress like this must fill dvance in mutual respect and confidence, which the different sections of the Presbyerian Church make toward each other, s a fresh proof of the Spirit of Christ welling in them. We never see new okens of this feeling, without being sent our closets with fresh matter of humble raise to its Author.

But can the Presbuterian have over ooked a document contained in the same umber with this manly and Christian arument, which easily suggests one of the ravest obstacles to the whole proposal? las it forgotten that extraordinary precauons are deemed necessary to prepare for he approaching meeting of the Assembly f that branch;—that Robert J. Breckenidge, D.D., has a circular in its columns alling for a caucus or convention, prelimiary to the Assembly, like those which lready have enjoyed "the manifest blessng of God, and were especially effectual in onnection with the General Assemblies of ated for this convention and for the rom the following paragraph in the cir-

"For myself I look upon the present roubles in our own, and all sister churches h this country, as being little else than he sinful continuation and working in a ligious form of the animized spirit and deeligious form, of the criminal spirit and deigns of the insurrection in temporal affairs; and I am persuaded that neither the country jurch of God can have peace or secuty until the religious poison is healed or irged out. In both respects-both of the ate and of the Church—it is better, immeasuply, to heal, if it be possible. If that may ot be, it is better, immeasurably, to keep the hurch pure, and restore it to peace, let that

Or, if the Presbyterian is ignorant of e possibilities involved in this movement. will bring to its aid a paragraph from nother organ of the same branch. The ittsburg Banner commenting upon the

Must the Church still be torn by those who main in her bosom only to wrangle and rele?—who prostitute their position as her office-arers, only to pour contempt upon the most lemn deliverances of her highest court, and heap with oppobrious epithets those who we been faithful to her teachings? Or shall at faction triumph who would trail in the ist the standard which God enabled his people times of trial to lift up?—as the enemies of country were accustomed to trample under feet and spit upon the glorious banner of

It may be the brethren of the other sembly will be able to meet and dispose these difficulties on some morning sesn at St. Louis. Until they do, however. ev will vainly look for us to come from dearly-bought position of peace, and ngle again in strifes to which Providence manifestly not appointed us.

n in the army, has gone to Cass county, ome Missionary Committee.



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# PRESIDENT.

The President has seen fit to exercise his prerogative and veto the Freedmen's Bureau Bill. Our readers have, for the most part, seen his message, or are sufficiently informed of its nature. We do not intend to enter upon a minute discussion of the document. But we deem it cur duty, as Christian journalists, and as the organ of a Church which has identified itself with the auspicious movements of the day, to record our deep disappointment and profound disapproval of the measure.

For our readers must have noticed that he President's veto was given not against details; not against this and that feature of the measure; not against that particular proposal to secure to Freedmen their rights in law, to property, to fair remuneration for labour, to personal security and to education. It was a veto of the entire purpose of the people to protect the late slaves and loval population of the South, from their rebel rulers and masters. It was the expression of the purpose of the Executive to surrender these interests to the control of men, who, less than a year ago, were fighting desperately, with the purpose of crushing them forever, and whose legislation ical sequence. And while he does not, in since has proved their spirit essentially un-

Further than this; the veto plainly declares the measure unconstitutional, because it was passed without the participation of the States to which chiefly it is designed to apply. These States, then, are entitled to an authoritative voice in all measures affecting their own interests. And especially, in settling the difficult problems, the dark possibilities, which slavery has left behind and which form a nidus for guarding and nursing their rebellious spirit, they must be admitted to bear an equal part. Plainly, the President means to concede the full right of the States lately in rebellion, to the enjoyment of the highest privileges of loyal citizenship in the councils of the Navery Christian heart with joy. And every tion. All attempts to secure further guarantees of good behaviour from these States are, consequently, unconstitutional. Anything that looks like punishment, or probation even, to these communities, in which rebellion was fermenting for half a century, and which, after four years of bloody struggle, marked by the most atrocious and revolting features, were only subdued by sheer vetoed in that action.

If any one thinks we have made undue extension of the significance of the veto message, we need but reter him to the speech of the President to the motley crowd, who adjourned from Grover's Theatre to White House, on the 22d of February. That crowd had just been harangued by S. S. Cox, one of the most notorious opponents of the war and of emancipation, in language which can only be palliated on the assumption that the speaker was intoxicated. The report before us, in a journal that has taken no position in regard to the veto, represents 834, 1835, and 1837?" The work indi- him as saying that "Thad. Stephens had deneral Assembly itself, may be gathered barrels of sulphur and matches to get up volves the gravest perils to all the substanhell itself."

At the same meeting, according to the same report.

"Mr. Rogers, of New Jersey, made a most violent and intemperate harangue, assailing President Lincoln's administration, charging that it had robbed the South of millions of dollars, in setting their slaves free, and now they have set up an odious, pestilent oath, to keep the South out of Congress.

This meeting, where even the small sprinkling of conservative Republicans must have felt themselves in unpleasant company, with men like Thomas Florence, Senator Saulsbury, Louis Schade, Esq., &c., adjourned to the White House and called out the President. Nothing loth, with sincere thanks for their approbation, the President commenced a harangue, which could scarcely have been less than an hour and a quarter long, and which even his friends must read with astonishment and shame. We unhesitatingly declare it unparalleled in the records of Presidential speechmaking. In that oration, the highest officer of the nation once more disgraced the American name, not this time by the maudlin airs and incoherent speech of a drunkard. but by condescending, at the call of a mob of secessionists and revilers of Abraham Lincoln, to single out by name and hold up to the scorn of his auditors, a Senator and a Representative of the sovereign people, men whose purity of character and noble-REV. SETH G. CLARKE, lately Chap- ciples of our Government have won for them even the admiration of their enemies

THE VETO AND THE SPEECH OF THE | Union and on a level with the traitors they | holy purpose, and by a sense of full accord | to such an extent that the result is doubt further mischief! Massachusetts and Pennsylvania do not accept the entire political creed of either of these bold and uncompromising statesmen. But these two great Commonwealths feel that Mr. Johnson has they do not recognize and meet it. grievously insulted them, in thus by name. and on the steps of the Executive Mansion, assailing their beloved and distinguished representatives as, equally with the Davises. the Slidells, and the Toombs of the South, of these objects of Executive denuncation.

> These men need not our defence. We have referred to the speech simply is an appendix to the veto message, and as cearthe overwhelming Union majority in Congress, which demands surer guarantees and proposes a longer probation than the fragment of a year to the lately rebel States, as 'almost another rebellion inaugurated." He describes it as an effort to bring about a result "equally objectionable with a separation." He calls the Reconstruction Committee of both Houses of Congress an rights, in his efforts to secure the representation of the States lately in rebellion.

The President, therefore, has put himelf athwart the present movement of our is. What has been done for freedom in Dr. Ross's letter. he either believes is secure, or he does not its duty as a loyal and integral portion of his interests? the Union, or he does not care whether or not it does. Without further probation or punishment, without additional guarantees, rebel population in the ascendency, and its loyal population, white and black, powerless as ever, fit to come back to all its representation, in the Government of the Republic. He is either satisfied that such a course would not imperil everything already gained, or he is perfectly willing to run the risk.

On the contrary, we believe it is one of the deepest seated convictions of the loval been sent from his Satanic majesty fourteen North, that the course of the President inhell on earth. He denounced Congress as tial fruits of our dear-won victories; that disunionists as 'black as Jefferson Davis or 'no sufficient evidence has been given or security exacted that a right course will be pursued in the South to the freedmen, or to the Union: that haste to readmit the old dominant classes of the South to power. would invest them with all their former been cleared at the cost of a terrible war,

No! no! we do not believe that the loyal North has the least idea of allowing it. So far from being satisfied with what has been accomplished, or from consenting to war to-day in the hands from which it was wrested by dearly-won victories; so far from consenting to trust the future of freedom, and of this Union, to the slave-lords of the South, to the civil and military power which brought such woes, martyrdoms and expenses upon the people, to the authors and abettors of the unparalleled crimes against humanity, with which the war was attended; they to-day ask that the march of events shall go forward in the same auspicious direction with our victories ness of intentions and devotion to the prin- in the field; that the vantage ground already gained shall be secured irrevocably,

are laboring day and night to disable from with Infinite Justice, this Republic shall be ful. made truly, everywhere and forever, FREE. This is the responsibility laid upon the present generation. And it is only the worse for the public men of our country if

## PRAYER FOR COLLEGES AND INSTI-

TUTIONS OF LEARNING. The Church shows an intelligent and a wise regard to her deepest interests by makopposed to the fundamental principles of | ing her youth, and the youth of the country, this Government, and laboring to pervert receiving an education, the object of one of and destroy it." Fortunate beyond her her two great Days of United Prayer in the wont will be the Republic, if the Presiden- year. We have no Annual Concert of tial mantle falls next upon a statesman half so | prayer for Publication, or Home Missions, good or so competent to the office, as lither or Church Erection; as by a spiritual instinct, we have given that eminence to the causes of Foreign Missions and Education. Even should we extend the list and multiply annual concerts, prayer for our youth ing the construction of that act fron all in institutions of learning could not lose its possible doubt. In this speech, the Resi- priority in importance. The day has hithdent, over and over again, declares the erto been attended by the most marked re-Southern States to be in the Union and sults in revivals among these youths; and charges those who are not ready to aimit the prevailing religious interest in all parts them to all the privileges of loyal States at of our country having already reached some once, as almost equally rebellious with the of these institutions, we may confidently secessionists. He describes the policy of hope for large and abundant answers to the prayers to-day offered.

#### DR. ROSS ONCE MORE.

The last Congregationalist says: We have received a long communication from Rev. Dr. F. A. Ross, of Huntsville, Ala., in which, we regret to say, he asserts and proves that he has not changed his views on the subject of slavery. He still considers the system as just, in itself conirresponsible central directory." The course, sidered, thinks the African must remain a of the great majority in Congress, he re- slave so long as he is in social connection peatedly declares to be hostile to the Con- with the Anglo-American, and says he had stitution, and describes himself as the great hoped that the system would pass away by champion of Constitutional and popular a peaceful emigration. He claims that the war has confirmed him in the first and second of those views, but that emigration "can hardly be realized under the influences which will press upon the negro made free and ungovernable by the sword. Comment on his position is needless, save country and our time towards justice, and to remark that, while the freedman is to be equal rights, and is determined that, so far found all over the South, we have not as he has the power, it shall stop where it heard of the "ungovernable" negro, save

Is the South, which honors pre-eminentcare whether it is or not. He either be ly men of the Ross stamp in religion and lieves the South honestly disposed to pro- politics, prepared to take exclusive charge tect the freedman in his rights, and to do of the freedman, and regulate uncontrolled

### SEVEN WEEKS OF DAILY PRAYER.

The Union Prayer-meeting of the various he regards the whole South, with its lately Evangelical denominations of our city has extended through the seven weeks, which pommenced with the week of prayer; and n Saturday afternoon the congregation in rights, safely to be trusted with a full ttendance at Dr. Kennard's Church voted share, and on a higher numerical basis of for a continuance of the services. The Church on Penn Square was offered for Monday, where a meeting of the most deeply interesting character was held.

## THE ANTI-SABBATH MOVEMENT.

A new aspect has been given to .the attempt to break down our Sabbath laws, by the enlistment of a pecuniary interest in its favor, and by arousing the bitterness of foreign opposition to the restraints of the American Sabbath. While the effort was only of the nature of a false scent to throw the Christian people of the city off the track of Sunday newspapers, it did not make any headway. There was no great prospect of pecuniary advantage held out haughtiness; that, step by step, they would to the railroad companies; they had not intrigue with their old party devotees, and | zeal enough in the matter to go to Harriswith the Irish Catholics of the North, for burg, and offer the inducements believed the restoration in substance of all of which | to be so effectual in securing legislative the war has deprived them; that degrada- action in that place. In short, there was no tion, ignorance, and practical slavery would money in it; and the Press, more than be the lot of the freedmen of the South, once, gave it up. But our German popuand that the debasing and anti-republican lation, who have unfortunately brought leaven, of which our national politics have with them no home-born reverence for the Day of Rest. and many of no them reverwould reinfect them for a generation to ence or regard for religion in any form; who are known, all through the land, as the most dangerous enemies of the Christian institutions which have made our land so great and so happy, and who crave the enlarged opportunity to drive the peculiarrisk the guardianship of the results of the ly German traffic in lager beer, which the gathering of crowds in the outskirts of the city will offer, have come to the rescue of for translating into the English language?" the bad cause in its jeopardy. Now, there is money in it; now, money can be had to circulate petitions and secure signers; now. borers and lobbyists can be paid for at Harrisburg; and if the vilest, and alas! most effectual appliances are found needful and likely to succeed with legislators in carrying through the repeal, they can be had. Numerous petitions have gone to the State | Scriptures generally, among those who pro- | the additional fifty cents. Parties owing capital, one purporting to have six thousand agency; and the report now is, that memby taking still higher ground and fortifying bers once counted on to form a decided to the morals and welfare of society. From o., as missionary of the Presbyterian —Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens. it with constitutional powers; that, so far majority against the measure, have yielded infancy, children are instructed that this

Meanwhile, the friends of the Sabbath have not been idle. A series of public meetings on Sabbath evenings has been inaugurated, for the purpose of more fully enlightening and arousing the Christian people to their duty. The first of these was held in North Broad Street Church two Sabbaths ago, Hon. Wm. Strong of the Supreme Court presiding. Judge Strong made a powerful argument for the faithful observance of the day, drawing from his own observation among those of his own position on the bench, the most positive proofs of the necessity of a day of rest to the physical and mental constitution of men. Judge Strong was followed by George Junkin, Esq., of the bar, and by the pastor, Dr. Adams. A second meeting was held last Sabbath evening in the Penn Square Church, where Rene Guillou, Esq., the pastor, (Dr. Crowell,) and Dr. Cornell made excellent addresses.

We trust the SABBATH UNION will use all necessary means, and spare no expense n thoroughly canvassing for signers to petitions. Thus far the work has been imperfectly done. We are sure the means will be forthcoming for a prompt, vigorous, and general prosecution of this important work. Petitions for signing, and blanks to be used in procuring signers, may be found at this office.

Among favorable indications, we observe that the Evening Telegraph, of this city, s openly and editorially upon the side of the Sabbath, and the frequent and able dvocacy of the right in its columns is most encouraging to the friends of the day in this crisis. We note also that a vote was recently taken by the Union League of this city, on the question of opening the refectory on the Sabbath, and that the proposal was negatived by the decisive maority of two hundred and eighty-one.

#### DEISM OPPOSED TO THE DAY O SACRED REST.

'A man is known by the (book) company h keeps.

MR. EDITOR:—Having recently read work "On the Institution of the Sabbath Day," and marked some forty passages decidedly, and more or less, explicitly, denying the divine authority of the sacred Scriptures; I herewith send you a part of them to show how open infidelity and hostility to the Lord's day affiliate. I give them just as I marked them, in the order of the

"Yet in the reformatory systems of the day common sense is laid aside for Sabbath enactments, which it is vainly believed are sufficient to reform the world, and for theological dogmas, which above all else, have ever been the cause of crime, suffering, and degradation."—Page 7.

"And they refer to the 2d Chapter of Genesis, wherein it is stated that the heavens and earth being finished. God rested on the Seventh day from all his works, and blessed and sanctified the day.

"In this account of creation nature speaks one language, the Bible another. Shall we put aside those unchangeable marks of a creation long anterior to that recorded, to be guided by records written when and by whom no one knows?

"The account in the Book of Genesis can only be considered as an allegory calculated to please children and ignorant men. In its literal sense it is entitled to no confidence. Were it even true, it does not warrant the conclusion which has been drawn from it." Page 18.

"No one at this remote period can decide why the Sabbath was instituted." Page 31,

"And it seems highly probable that at need scarcely say that this course throws this period, in the reign of Josiah, [864] suspicion on the genuineness of the entire years after Sinai, the Pentateuch was pro- list of church advertisements, meagre as it mulgated for the first time." Page 44.

"Can any intelligent mind believe that the Father of Mercies has provided a conservative power to preserve and uphold all made out their bills at fifty cents advance physical things, and yet has left man a prey to chance? made him dependent for truth upon the Scriptures, which so late as the bills. year 1516 Tyndale was burnt at the stake Page 175.

"Can any one believe that this book, ambiguous in its language, uncertain in its all who have been thus negligent, two weeks conjectures, is designed by the Amighty from this date, in which to settle at \$3.

to be the rule of life for man?" which was adhered to by the Puritans, has to settle up arrearages, due three months or greatly lessened, but the authority of the more, by the 8th of March, will be charged fess to be the teachers of men, remains in for two years or more, will understand this or more signers, procured through this its pristine vigor; and if our reasoning is offer as referring to the last year only. On true, such a doctrine is of incalculable evil former years no reduction is made. These men he denounced as foes to the as lies in human power, strengthened by to the pressure from these infidel sources, book is 'the Word of God,' the 'revelation menced labors in Knoxville.

of His will, the guide of life,' and with these preconceived opinions, false in their very nature, every effort to reform society fails." Page 194.

"I touch upon the subject of the clergy with regret, because I am liable to be misunderstood;" (not at all, sir, you are perfectly well understood, to be a malicious, bitter, slanderer of the whole evangelical clergy,) "yet there can be no doubt, that it is mainly through their influence that the Sabbath superstition is spread through the country. But the system of paying men for preaching and praying is liable to great abuse." Page 198.

"The first day of the week is the great harvest of the clergy; hence so little reliance is to be placed upon anything they say on the subject."-" "Many of them would take either side of the Sabbath question, as their interest might dictate." Page 199. "Whose feelings I would not willingly wound." Page 198. How brotherly thee is, Friend! "Whether in religion or literature, the clergy have always been behind the age; from them have emanated all the persecutions which have disgraced the name of religion. Their prejudices are so deep, and their interests so immediate, that it is scarcely possible that their statements should be correct." Page 200.

"The Esquimaux and the Hottentots are as effectually saved as Christians can be. The institution of a Sabbath has never come to them; but they understand the great moral principles of right and wrong as perfectly as we do." Page 242. (If by "we," he means the little sectarian clique to which the author belongs, it is probably true.)

"Jesus left no writing behind him as a rule for others—he directed none to do so." Page 244.

Thus infidelity marks the book from beginning to ending. It totally repudiates the Gospel. This is the book recommended by The Press, and which led that paper into its false quotations. What select company Col. Forney keeps!

THEOPHILUS.

## STILL MORE INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

That a President of the United States, escorted by the legal counsel of Mr. Lincoln's murderers and of Wirz, should appear before a wild mob of secessionists, and denounce, by name, and in response to their call, two leading Republican Senators, and accuse them of a design to assassinate him, was, one would think, sufficiently astounding. That newspapers like the N. Y. Times should defend the speech, added, perhaps, a little to the surprise. But almost equal to the indescribable shock of the speech itself, is the gratuitous despatch of Secretary Seward, in which that once honored representative of all that was knightly and sagacious in statesmanship, applauds and revels in the brutal utterances. The despatch as follows, has been in print several days, and has not been disavowed or questioned:

New York, February 23, 1866.
"It is all right and safe. The Union is restored and the country safe. The President's speech is triumphant, and the country will be happy. \*
"(Signed) W. H. SEWARD."

We note four respectable churches including the Third Reformed Dutch, St. Clement's, and St. Matthias', Episcopal. and the North Broad Street Presbyterian. advertised in Saturday's Press. The advertisement of this latter church we know to have been unauthorized, and against the wishes of the pastor and other officers. In this case, the Press, or its friends, have resorted to a dishonorable ruse, to keep up its repute among church-going people. We has become.

Subscribers who think we have on the previous year, will please notice the sentence printed in red at the bottom of the

Many subscribers, by delaying three months, instead of paying in advance, are becoming liable to the addition of fifty cents in such cases required. We offer to (by carriers \$3 50), if they will do it with-"The authority of the laws of Moses, out expense or trouble to us. All who tail

REV. GEO. W. LE VERE has just com-