American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1866.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

LETTER FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

We need hardly remind our readers that it was expected, in advance, that this would be one of the most important and most interesting meetings of the General Assembly since the great disruption in 1837. The fact that the two Assemblies, the Old School and the New, were to meet in the same place; that this might lead to some special demonstrations toward reunion; that some new measures *might* be proposed in regard to the manner of carrying on our Foreign Missionary work, and the certainty that something must be done to make more practical and beneficent the administration of our Church Erection fund, all tended to concentrate special interest in this meeting.

We chance to know that the first query in more than one mind was, Is the body well selected? Are the able men to be there, to meet the great questions as they come up? It will be seen that some, at least, were there, and that the questions were met. Conspicuous among the leading minds, were the venerable Dr. Beman, Prof. H. B. Smith, Dr. Parker, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Knox, Dr. Shaw, and many others. Here were wisdom and experience. It was a well-balanced, strong, working, harmonious body; and we think the result will show that it did its work well.

It deserves special mention, that it was prevaded by a fervent religious feeling. It will be remembered that many of the Commissioners were fresh from revival scenes of matchless interest. Their hearts were warm; their words were tender, and they were prepared to do all they could to set forward the Redeemer's kingdom. Who can doubt that in such a state of mind, their vision was cleared, their judgments were sanctified; they enjoyed special advantages for looking at the world's wants, and devising for its salvation.

The daily meetings for devotion were full of love and tenderness. The hour was always too short for the number who wanted to speak and pray. Touching requests for prayer for dear friends also came in daily, as in the Fulton Street meeting, and called out the liveliest sympathies, and the most tender supplications. It was good to be there. We caught unmistakable glimpses of the celestial city. We thought of old Simeon, "Now lettest"——

What wonder then, that we thought of our brethren of the other branch with real sympathy; and that we were ready to meet their pleasant advances toward reunion with entire frankness and cordiality? They convened under very different auspices. Disloyalty to Church and State, rank and defiant, came with them, and demanded control of their counsels. They expected a stormy time, and they had it, until treason found itself in a feeble minority, and slunk away to its native home, in Kentucky.

With the Old School Assembly, thus purged, we were one in heart, in hope, in polity, in doctrine. They held out the warm hand of fellowship; what could we do but grasp it right cordially? They appointed a committee of five of their own number, to confer with a like committee of our Assembly, in regard to holding some devotional meetings together. Of course, we appointed such a committee on our side, and on their joint arrangement we held a union prayer-meeting on Monday evening of last week in the Second Church, the place of their sittings, and a union celebration of the Lord's Supper on Wednesday evening in the First Church, the place of our gathering.

At the former meeting, the two Moderators presided, and admirable speeches were made by them and by Rev. Drs. Joel Parker, and H. B. Smith of our Assembly; by A. E. Chamberlain, Esq., of Cincinnati, from the other Assembly, and by Rev. Dr. McCosh, of Scotland, who was providentially present, all looking kindly toward re-union. This, we fear not to say, was the most important and most delightful meeting of the season. It was a meeting which will hold a very high place on some chief page in the history of the American Church. It was the pivot on which future history will turn. After that meeting it was most easy and natural to unite in celebrating the Lord's Supper; and that only drew our hearts more nearly together. In these meetings all saw and felt, deeply felt, that henceforth the two assemblies were virtually one, whether there shall yet be a more formal union or not.

But one of the most important matters determined by this Assembly, was a radical change in the administration of the *Church Erection Fund;* just that change which has been so earnestly advocated by some of our best men in all the later meetings of our Assemblies. It will be seen that the great fund of $127,000 is to be permanently invested; that the interest is to be used in gifts, rather than loans, and so avoid burdening the churches aided with a debt; that the money thus realized is to be supplemented by an annual collection from the churches, and that also used for church-building purposes; and that, to carry out this plan, a General Secretary is to be appointed by the Executive Committee, to bring the matter before the churches, and raise the needed money.

It is also proposed to increase the sum donated to any church from two hundred dollars to any sum desired, to the amount of one-half the value of the church to be built, including the lot on which it is erected.

It is confidently believed that this change will greatly enhance the usefulness of this fund. It was first very carefully considered by a large and well-appointed committee, then fully discussed in the Assembly, and adopted by a majority of more than ten to one. This cause is henceforth, therefore, to be put on the same level with that of Home Missions, the one to furnish ministers, and the other to supply houses of worship in which they may preach the everlasting Gospel.

If this Assembly had done nothing else but inaugurate this change, or this enlargement, this alone would make it one of the most important of our convocation; and when we consider that which was so well done toward reunion, and that all our benevolent operations received due attention, we are sure that the meeting of our chief judicatory at St. Louis in 1866 was one of highest importance and value. It will not soon be forgotten by those were there, and its influence for good must be felt to the ends of the earth, and to the last recorded syllable of time.

GENESEE.

ST. LOUIS, May 23, 1866.

News of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

The President has pardoned three of the Alexandria rioters who kept last Christmas by killing negroes, and who but recently were sent to the Albany Penitentiary.

Humiliating.—A serenade to the members of the Cabinet in Washington, May 23, gave, as doubtless it was designed to give, an opportunity to those officers to express their views upon the President's policy. Indeed, it had much the appearance of a measure designed to compel those officials to commit themselves on the subject. The speech of Secretary McCulloch, says the *Press*, was in very bad taste. Being full of sneers upon Congress and threats against the Union party, it of course gave great pleasure to the promiscuous crowd of Copperheads and returned rebels. It was, in fact, in the worst style of Western stump oratory. In great contrast to this harangue was the speech of Secretary Stanton. He read it to avoid misrepresentation, and spoke with great emphasis upon the cruelties of the rebels. He laid great stress upon the loss of three hundred thousand Union heroes, and upon the necessity of preserving the fruits of the war, and quoted such passages from the President's message as referred to reconstruction. Congress had declared that loyal men alone should reorganize the States, and had promised full protection to the freedmen. His declaration that he had advised the signing of the Freedmen's Bureau bill, and his argument in favor of the Civil Rights bill, was received in dead silence by the crowd that had boasted they would smoke him out. His speech, though very respectful to the President, is regarded as rather an argument in favor of the radical programme, and even his objection to the third section of the reconstruction report strongly indicated that, in his opinion, it did not go far enough. Secretary Harlan and Gen. Speed wrote brief and manly letters, declining to make any response.

CONGRESS.

Senate.—May 22.—Mr. Wilson, from the Military Committee, reported favorably upon the bill for the equalization of bounties. The entire amount is estimated at about two hundred and fifty million dollars, although it is highly probable that this will be reduced. The bill gives every soldier, without distinction of color, a bounty of eight-and-one-third dollars per month for each month of service; home guards, local troops, &c., are excepted. A bill was called up in reference to the public lands of the Southern States, which provides that any one may occupy such lands by paying for them and swearing future allegiance to the Government. It was passed finally. The bill to consolidate the National debt, and to reduce the rate of interest upon it, was called up, and Mr. Sherman spoke at length in favor of the measure. The House bill amending the postal laws was passed.

May 23.—The Reconstruction resolutions were taken up. Mr. Sumner plead for further delay, and said he did not think the business of the Senate was in such a condition as to warrant the belief that it would adjourn before the latter part of July. He believed this great question of reconstruction ought to be reserved as the last serious and considerable subject of discussion before the adjournment. Mr. Fessenden being too unwell to speak at length, Mr. Howard took his place in explaining and defending the Committee's plan.

At the conclusion of Mr. Howard's speech, Mr. Wade offered the following as a substitute for the pending proposition:

Substitutes.

ARTICLE —. SECTION 1. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

SEC. 2. No class of persons as to the right of any of whom to suffrage any discrimination shall be made shall be included in the basis of representation, unless such discrimination be in virtue of impartial qualification founded on intelligence, or because of alienage, or for participation in the rebellion or other crimes.

SEC. 3. The public debt of the United States, including all debts or obligations which have been or may hereafter be included in suppressing or in carrying on war in defence of the Union, or for payment of bounties or pensions incident to such war, and provided by law, shall be inviolate; but debts or obligations which have been or may hereafter be incurred in aid of insurrection, or of war against the United States, and claims for compensation for loss of involuntary or servile labor, shall not be assumed or paid by any State nor by the United States.

SEC. 4. That Congress shall have power to confirm, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the article.

Mr. Wilson offered the following as a substitute for the second clause of the House resolution:

"Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers; and if in any State the elective franchise is or shall be denied to any of its inhabitants being male citizens of the United States above the age of twenty-one years, for any cause except insurrection or rebellion against the United States, the basis of representation in such State shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of male citizens so excluded shall bear to the whole number of male citizens over the age of twenty-one years."

Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Wilson submitted the following substitute for the third section of the House resolution, which was ordered to be printed: "That any person who resigned or abandoned, or may resign or abandon any place under the United States Government, and has taken or may take part in rebellion against the Government, shall be ineligible to any office under the United States or any State government."

Mr. Clark offered the following substitute for the third section of the House resolution, which was ordered to be printed:

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or permitted to hold any office under the Government of the United States, who, having previously taken an oath to support the Constitution thereof, shall have aided in any insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort thereto.

Mr. Clark proposed the following as a substitute for the fourth section of the House resolution:

"Debts incurred in aid of rebellion or war against the United States are illegal and void, and cannot be enforced in any country, and shall not be paid by the United States or any State, nor shall any compensation be made for the loss or emancipation of any slaves."

May 24.—A resolution was passed that a select committee inquire into the condition of the national banks and report to the Senate. The Reconstruction resolutions were taken up. Mr. Stewart of Nevada urged universal amnesty and impartial suffrage as the true plan.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, submitted the following, which he said expressed his own views on the subject of reconstruction through he did not know that he should offer it, as he intended to vote for what appeared to be the strongest proposition—to strike out the second and third sections of the proposed amendment and insert in lieu thereof:

Representatives shall be apportioned among the different States which may be included within this Union according to the number in each State of male citizens of the United States over twenty-one years of age, qualified by the laws of that State to choose members of the most numerous branch of the Legislature, and including such citizens as are disqualified for participating in rebellion. Direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States according to the value of real estate and personal property in each State, not belonging to the States or to the United States.

May 25.—The bill extending the limit of age required as the standard for admission to the United States Military Academy, and making young men from the army eligible until the age of twenty-four years, was passed. The committee to examine into the affairs of the national banks was ordered to consist of five members.

May 28.—Messrs. Wilson, Henderson, Van Winkle, Johnson and Buckalew were appointed the Bank Investigating Committee. The State Intercommunication bill was considered.

House.—May 22.—The Senate bill to authorize the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of the Navy was passed. The Bankrupt bill was passed by a vote of 68 yeas to 59 nays. The tax bill was taken up, and the discussion was continued all day.

May 23.—The consideration of the bill to continue in force and to amend the act establishing the Freedmen's Bureau was resumed. The Tax bill was taken up.

May 24.—The bill to amend and continue in force the Freedmen's Bureau, went over until Tuesday. The Tax bill was discussed.

May 25.—The Bounty bill was called up and passed—yeas 139, nays 2, the latter being Messrs. Nicholson, of Delaware, and Trimble, of Kentucky.

New Bounty Bill.

The bill, as passed, gives a bounty of eight and one-third dollars a month, or $100 per year for time of actual service; and in case of discharge on account of wounds received in line of duty, the bounty is to be paid up to the end of the term for which enlistment was made. In case of the death of any so discharged, before the end of his term of enlistment, the allowance shall be paid to his widow, if not remarried, or, if he have no widow, to his minor child or children under sixteen years of age. In computing the bounty, all bounties already paid by the United States, or by any State, county, or municipal organization, or by any voluntary association, shall be deducted, and in case of sailors and marines, prize money shall also be deducted, and only such amount be paid as, with other bounties or prize money paid or payable, will make, in the aggregate, the sum above allowed. No bounty is to be paid to substitutes, or those discharged at their own request, except with a view to promotion, re-enlistment, or transference to another branch of the service. All sales or transfers of interest in bounty claims are declared null and void, and no payment of any claim will be made, unless application be filed within two years from the passage of this act.

The Tax bill was then taken up, which occupied the remainder of the day session.

The House Judiciary Committee is still engaged upon the case of Davis and Clay and their complicity in the assassination and other plots. Considerable testimony has been taken during the last few days as to their guilt. There is no doubt of it in the minds of leading members of the committee, and all reports to the contrary are untrue.

May 28.—Mr. Stevens introduced a bill prescribing conditions for the admission of the Southern States. Resolutions for the admission of the Tennessee members were offered and referred. The Printing Committee were directed to report a bill establishing eight hours as a day's labor in the public printing offices. The Tax bill wat considered in Committee, and passed by the House.

THE CITY.

George W. Schlecht, a city passenger-railway conductor, was sentenced to three years in the Penitentiary recently by Judge Cadwalader, for passing counterfeit notes and coin. The court considered the responsible position held by the prisoner, which enabled him to pass the spurious money, and hence the severity of the sentence. Austin Keene, another railway conductor, was committed for being engaged dealing in counterfeit money.

Financial.—The total shipment of specie last week amounted to about $11,036,466.

FOREIGN.

The Financial Panic.—The following is the address of the Emperor Napoleon to the Mayor of Auxerre, May 6th. The allusion it contains to the treaties of 1815, is supposed to have been a main cause of the panic:—"I see with pleasure that the memory of the First Empire has not been effaced from your minds. Believe me, for my own part, I have inherited the feelings entertained by the chief of my family for this energetic and patriotic population, who sustained the Emperor in good as in evil fortune. I have a debt of gratitude to discharge toward Yonne. This department was the first to give me its suffrages in 1848, because it knew, with the majority of the French people, that its interests were my interests, that I had detested equally with them those treaties of 1815, which it is now sought to make the sole basis of our foregn policy. I thank you for the sentiments you have expressed toward me. Among you, I breathe freely, for it is among the working population, both in town and country, that I find the real genius of France."

The sentence, it is said, was not in the speech as delivered, but added afterward to the report.

The following account is given of the excitement in London:—"During Friday, May 11th, which was the day of greatest excitement, the Bank extended its loans and discounts, until the amount exceeded four millions sterling, or twenty millions of dollars. The effect was to reduce the Bank reserve by nearly fifteen millions of dollars. This diminution and the prevailing distrust justified the Government intervention, though the *Times* newspaper seemed to think the act a great stretch of power, needing very extraordinary causes to justify it; and that paper expresses the belief that the reign of terror was approaching its end, and would have speedily ceased had no infraction of the bank law been permitted. It admits, however, that 'the tumult became a rout. The doors of the most respectable banking houses were besieged, more perhaps by a mob, actuated by a strange sysmpathy, which makes and keeps a mob together, than by the creditors of the banks, and throngs heaving and tumbling about Lombard street made that narrow thoroughfare impassable. Such excitement on all sides has not been witnessed since the great crisis of 1825. Each man exaggerated the suspicions of his neighbor, and until a report, at that time unfounded, was circulated in the afternoon, that the Government had authorized the bank directors to issue five millions additional in notes, it seemed as if the fear and distrust of the commercial world had suddenly become boundless. The statement was baseless at the time, but served to allay the panic which had no solid foundation.'"

News to the 17th show that the panic had abated, but that failures were still occurring. The Bank rate of discount was 12 per cent. England is excited at the bombardment of Valparaiso, and it had been indignantly alluded to in both Houses of Parliament, but the neutral conduct of the English admiral had been fully endorsed. A meeting at Liverpool had passed a resolution of thanks to Commodore Rodgers, for his exertions to prevent the destruction of life and property.—The English ministerial papers profess much satisfation with the conduct of the United States Government with reference to the Fenians. Financial affairs look better, and American securities are improving. U. S. five-twenties sold at 66.

Spain and Peru.—Official advices from Callao, forwarded per steamer from Panama to New York, assert that in the engagement between the defences of Callao and the Spanish fleet, the latter were so terribly crippled as to be unfit for further immediate service. Indeed, it was doubtful whether some of the vessels would ever be able to go into action again. The loss of the Peruvians was from 80 to 100; that of the Spaniards is reckoned at 300, killed and wounded.

Austria, Prussia, Italy.—The latest news was still belligerent. Garibaldi had been appointed commander of volunteers.

MARRIAGES.

HAMMOND—OVERTON.—At Towanda, Pa., on Thursday morning, May 24th, by Rev. William Harris, Rev. EDWARD PAYSON HAMMOND, of Vernon, Conn., to Miss ELIZA OVERTON, youngest daughter of Edward Overton, Esq., of the former place.

GRIFFITHS—STEPHENS.—May 9th, by the Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D.D., Mr. GEORGE GRIFFITHS to Miss MARIA E. STEPHENS.

BUNKER—SIGLER.—May 24th, by Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D.D., Mr. SAMUEL A. BUNKER to Miss MARY F. SIGLER.

Special Notices.

☞ **The Presbytery of Ontario** will meet in Nunda, on the third Tuesday in June, (19th), at four o'clock P. M.
J. BARNARD, Stated Clerk.

☞ **Philadelphia Tract and Mission Society.**—Office, 115 South Seventh Street.
The one hundred and thirty-fifth meeting in behalf of this Society will be held in the Olivet Presbyterian Church, Twenty-second and Mount Vernon Streets, on Sabbath evening, June 3d, at a quarter before eight o'clock. Several addresses will be made.
JOSEPH H. SCHREINER, Agent.

☞ **The Presbytery of Cortland** will hold its next Stated Meeting at Dryden, on Tuesday, 12th of June, at 2 o'clock P. M.
H. N. MILLERD, Stated Clerk.
AUBURN, May 22, 1866.

☞ **Oxford Street Chapel.**—The new Chapel, Oxford Street, below Broad, will be dedicated with appropriate services, at eight o'clock, on Thursday evening, 31st instant. Rev. Messrs. Barnes, Calkins, and Rev. Dr. Brainerd, will participate in the exercises.
The Choir of the Calvary Presbyterian Church, with the assistance of J. C. Stanbridge, Esq., will conduct the music on the occasion. 2t

☞ **The Presbytery of Columbus** will hold its next Stated Meeting, at Baraboo, on Tuesday, the 19th of June, at seven o'clock P. M.
B. G. RILEY, Stated Clerk.

☞ **Buffalo Presbytery will hold their** Stated Meeting at Jamestown, on the second Tuesday of June, commencing at four o'clock P. M.
TIMOTHY STILLMAN, Stated Clerk.

☞ **The Presbytery of Rochester** will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting in Bergen, on Tuesday, the 12th day of June next, at two o'clock P. M.
CHAS. E. FURMAN, Stated Clerk.
BUFFALO, May 19, 1866.

☞ **Presbytery of Steuben** will hold its nex regular meeting at Pultney, on the second Tuesday (12th) of June, 1866, at 4 o'clock, P. M.
W. A. MILES, Stated Clerk.
CORNING, May 11, 1866.

IMPORTANCE OF HAVING DAVIS' PAIN KILLER ALWAYS AT HAND.

Wonderful cure of the Rev. D. L. Brayton, Missionary in India, who was stung by a scorpion. Extract from his letter, dated Mergui, June 13, and published in the *Baptist Missionary Magazine* for December, 1849:—"For the first time since I have been in India, I have been stung by a scorpion. I went out this morning to my exercises, as usual, at early dawn, and having an occasion to use an old box, on taking off the cover, I put my hand on a scorpion, which immediately resented the insult by thrusting its sting into the palm of my hand. The instantaneous and severe pain which darted through my system is quite incredible; what an awfully virulent poison their sting must contain! I flew to my bottle of 'Davis' Pain Killer,' and found it to be true to its name. The relief was almost as sudden as the pain: after a moment's relief, I saturated a small piece of sponge, bound it on my hand, and went about my exercises, feeling no more particular inconveniences." 1045-3t

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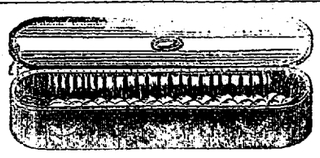

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