

News of our Churches.

VANDALIA, ILL.—Laying a Cornerstone.—On Thursday, the 17th inst., the cornerstone of a new Presbyterian Church was laid with appropriate exercises.

This is one of the oldest church organizations in the State. The bell that now hangs in the cupola, and to be transferred to the new church steeple, was the first bell that ever rung in this State to call together a Protestant congregation.

After the stone was laid under the supervision of the pastor, Rev. Robert T. Matthews, an address was delivered by Rev. Robert Stewart. The new building, which will be pushed forward to completion at the earliest practicable time, will be 75 feet long, and 46 feet wide.

PERSONAL.—Mr. A. O. Pollock, a licentiate under the care of Presbytery and supplying the church at Prairie Bird, Ind., was duly ordained and installed over that church on the first Sabbath in June.

Having arrested his frightened horse, he swung himself out by the dash-board of the carriage in order to take them by the bits, but in doing so, although he is not aware that he struck the ground heavily, or otherwise than square upon his feet, one of his legs was badly fractured just below the knee, so that there is some danger of involving the joint itself.

Congregationalism in the South.—Churches have been organized in Washington City, Memphis, New Orleans, Savannah, and recently in Newbern, N. C. Of the church in Memphis, our correspondent writes on an inside page.

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD ABROAD.

LONDON ANNIVERSARIES.—The religious periodicals of the last month are loaded with accounts of the May anniversaries, which, besides their business aspects, have become to the United Kingdom a sort of national celebration of the progress of religion and philanthropy.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, presided over by the Earl of Shaftesbury, secured as usual the highest attention. This is the natural result of the catholic character of its organization.

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Table with 2 columns: Society Name and Amount. Includes Bible Society (gifts and sales) £171,375; Foreign Missions—6 societies, 497,993; Home Missions—3 societies, 103,775; For the Jews—two societies, 39,414; Continental Missions, 2,000; Educational—9 societies, 68,611; Miscellaneous—12 societies, 31,809. Total, £914,977.

A CRISIS REACHED.—Our readers have frequently been informed of the great internal struggle through which the National Reformed Church is passing—the inexpressible conflict between an evangelical orthodoxy on one hand, and the loosest type of rationalism on the other.

Meantime an important event has occurred—the separation of the rationalistic members from the National Conference of Pastors. This Conference was instituted thirty-three years ago, when orthodox views of the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, and of the person and work of Christ, were the unquestioned principles of the Church.

Here, by the way, we may say that, according to the reports of the press, Mr. Stuart's presence, with his characteristic vivacity and inspiring eloquence, contributed much to the enthusiasm of more than one of the anniversaries.

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY celebrated its 67th anniversary. It now occupies 148 foreign stations, and has for its working corps, 190 European and 88 native born clergymen, and 2152 laborers of other grades.

THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY reports 110 stations, 185 missionaries, 750 native agents, 227 churches, 28,914 communicants, and 41,000 day scholars. Satisfactory, and in some cases unusually cheering accounts, were given of the missions in Polynesia, the West Indies, South Africa, China, India and Madagascar.

JUDICIAL INTOLERANCE.—A French Protestant has been fined for pursuing his secular avocation on All Saints' Day, and the sentence has been confirmed by the highest judicial tribunal of France.

DISSENSIONS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.—The breach between the Ultramontanes and the less bigoted Romanists, who favor some measure of toleration, and some progress of religious thought, widens. The Journal Le Monde, the organ of the former, bestows on the Liberal Catholics the epithets of traitors, heretics in disguise, rebels, enemies of the Holy See, and other like invectives.

GERMANY.—The dark war cloud overshadows all, and from its deep shadow, all the religious intelligence takes its tone. To human view, the interests of Protestantism are deeply involved, notwithstanding the absence of any distinctly religious question in the dispute.

kingdom has now bound itself too closely to the fortunes of Prussia, not to feel almost vitally a defeat of the latter, and at this moment nothing could be more opportune for the trembling sovereignty of the Pope than a great military disaster to Victor Emmanuel.

THE MASSACRE at Barletta has already been chronicled. It has called out large contributions for the sufferers, and the orphans have been provided with good homes. But we learn with surprise that the trial of the large number of priests and their abettors who have been arrested, is likely, through the clerical leanings of the magistrates, to be a mere farce—a paltry mockery of justice.

SOUTH AFRICA.—PROBABLE BREAKING UP OF A MISSION.—The mission of a French Protestant Society to the territory of the Basutos, after thirty years of labor, and amid the highest prospects of usefulness, is now imperilled and likely to be driven from the ground, in consequence of the war between the Boers and Basutos.

LIGHT IN DARKNESS.—Under this gloomy state of things, it is cheering to meet with an account like the following, which we condense from the Quarterly Reporter of the German Baptist Mission, founded in the Christian Work.—Since the publication of the January Reporter, the full enjoyment of religious liberty in Hamburg has been sealed by the votes of the Senate and Burgherschaft.

INDIA.—BAZAAR PREACHING.—Just now, in the British province of Ajmere and Mairwara, the missionaries of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland are practicing, with great usefulness, the system of holding forth the Word of Life in the public bazaars.

ITALY.—THE PONTIFICAL LOAN.—Just now there is no more ominous aspect to the impending downfall of the temporal sovereignty of the Pope, than the fact that no religious inspiration and no diligence of the proverbially indomitable faculty for begging on the part of the priests, can keep the new loan in any decent financial condition.

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MARRIAGES.

MORBY—LEURMEX.—In Windsor, Vermont, on the 21st of June, by Rev. P. B. Burdett, Rev. HENRY M. MORBY, of Pittsford, N. H., and Miss ELLEN M. LEURMEX, daughter of Wm. Leurmex, Esq.

DEATHS.

ORITARY.—Died, March 23d, at the Mahabaleshwar Hills, India, Mrs. GRAVES, wife of the late Allan Graves, in the 79th year of her age.

Special Notices.

The Presbytery of St. Lawrence will hold their Semi-annual Meeting at Brasher Falls, on Tuesday, July 10th, at 2 o'clock P. M.

Philadelphia Tract and Mission Society.—Office, 115 South Seventh Street.

PERRY DAVIS' PAIN KILLER. Travelers are always liable to sudden attacks of Dysentery and Cholera Morbus, and these occurring when absent from home, are very unpleasant.

Wants. AGENTS WANTED! J. T. HEADLEY'S HISTORY OF THE WAR, NOW READY. Complete in Two Volumes, also in One.

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