

American Presbyterian.

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NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

- 1. Any person who takes a paper regularly from the post-office... 2. If a person orders his paper discontinued... 3. The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers...

Letters from a Garret, III., by Z. M. H., The Upper Mississippi, by G. W. M., Rev. A. M. Stewart's Letters, XIV., page 2d. Editor's Table, Literary Items, Influence of the Moon on the Weather, Bursting of a Glacier, Ox or Horse Teams, page 3d. What is Life? Katrina and Katrina, Children a Blessing, Temperance Jottings: Misplayed Amusements, Power of Religious Training, "If I should die before I wake," &c., page 6th. Writing for the Press, Two Ways of Reading the Bible, Lord Brougham's Favorite Hymn, Earnest Preaching, The Unitas Fratrum, page 7th.

Our readers will regret to learn that the next of the "Letters from a Garret" will close the interesting series for the present. We hope, however, to have the pleasure of frequently presenting other productions from the same accomplished pen.

There are principles in morals so absolutely fixed that it is immoral to seriously question them. One of these is that a man must fulfil his contracts in the sense in which he knew the other contracting party to understand them. Do the Democratic party propose to do so with our national promises to pay?

The apparent increase of the public debt is caused by Secretary McCulloch reckoning the loans to the Pacific R. R. as part of the debt. Deducting these, the result shows that there has really been a large reduction of the debt, and that without making allowance for bonds, greenbacks and postal currency destroyed by accident, it really amounts to little over \$2,490,000,000. The English national debt is over \$3,945,000,000, of which \$240,000,000 is in the form of life annuities, that bring one of their expedients to pay it off easily.

The English Lord Churchmen are in the main supporting Disraeli very staunchly, but he is hardly acting in a way to deserve their support. In his earlier days he opposed Sir Robert Peel in resisting legislation to secure a decent observance of the Sabbath. Since his accession to power he has used his patronage to build up the High Church and even Ritualistic party. He sent out a bishop to Calcutta who so changed the service that a Highland (and largely Presbyterian) regiment almost mutinied at the door of the Cathedral, rather than by entering "homologate" with Romish devices. He has bestowed some of the richest livings in the gifts of the crown upon leading men in the Ritualistic party. His Secretary for Foreign Affairs declines to officially interfere to secure the release of a Spanish Protestant from the dungeon, thereby setting aside the nobler precedents established by Cromwell and Earl Russell.

A SENTIMENT FOR THE TIMES.—Mr. Bancroft, in his account of the early opposition of the aristocracy of Virginia to free schools and printing, says: "We rightly abhor the envy which delights in debasing excellence; it is a still greater crime against humanity to combine against the masses in their struggle for intellectual and social advancement." Mr. Bancroft, we believe, is at present in favor with the Democracy, but we do not think he would consent to the insertion of the word "white" before "masses," in the above noble declaration.

WHAT THE LORD HATH WROUGHT.

Figures will tell stories sometimes. In your list of churches in this week's AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, that have received the largest accessions by examination, you say 18 have received 1452. When the figures of your list are all corrected it will be 20 churches have received 1345. But you have omitted some of the largest accessions, viz.: Third ch., New Albany, Ind., 171; Homer, N. Y., 139; Second ch., New Albany, Ind., 110; Marquette, Mich., 87. This will give us 24 churches with an increase by examination of 1852, which a better showing than we had last week. [The omission here indicated was corrected in our issue next following, with the express exception of Homer, N. Y., which does not belong to our body.]

Let us go a little farther, and we will find that the number of churches which have received 25 and upwards, is 112, the aggregate number received in these being 3367. Here then we have one-fifteenth of our churches receiving more than one-third of the number received in the entire Church. Are not these facts significant? It surely would be well for every minister and church, to be conversant with the progress of our beloved Zion, and especially to know whether they are themselves keeping pace with the general Church. Not that the number received indicates, at all times, the amount of good that is accomplished. But it does show us that something has been done.

Another calculation shows us 517 churches, that have 100 members and upwards, with an aggregate membership of 121,693. Into these churches there were received on examination 7,373, while the remaining 1,043 churches, with an aggregate membership of 47,239, barely received 3,518. Here then we find that one-third of the churches have almost three-fourths of the membership, and have received just two-thirds of the whole number added during the year. Taking the entire membership, we have in the larger churches, one received to over 16 1/2, and in the smaller, one to over 13 1/2 members. Thus showing that, in proportion, the smaller churches are doing the most in gathering the poor, lost wanderers into the fold of Christ. We have another thing to look at. In the eight Eastern Synods, viz.: Albany, Utica, Onondaga, Geneva, Susquehanna, Genesee, New York and New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, our membership is 103,708, while in the other fifteen Synods, covering over one hundred times the territory, we have but 65,224. Here are interesting facts for the lover of Home Missions. What a country to be conquered for Christ!

But the difference is not so great now as it was in 1865. Then, the East had 91,966, while the West had 51,679, making the increase during this time, in the East 12 1/2 per cent, while in the West it has been 26 1/2 per cent. This increase in the West, is not, by any means, from the increase of population, and hence by letter from eastern churches. For we find that during this time 14,796 were received by letter in the East, and 13,851 in the West. [This is not quite conclusive. The receipts by letter in the Eastern churches are mainly from the Eastern churches and are no net gain to the East, while the West receives many from the East and gives few.]

Another significant fact appears. The East has 917 ministers, and 697 churches, while the West has 883 ministers and 893 churches. When I see these figures, I feel that we, who are in the West, ought never to covet a situation in the East, because the minister is better cared for and his work is attended with less hardships than it is in the West. Truly here is where the Master needs laborers for His vineyard. And I feel like asking Bro. "GENESSE" if he does not think we are as much interested in the Re-union of the Church as they are in New York? Surely if any part of the country is to be benefited by this, it is the West, where small bands of Christians may be united, and thus their efficiency more than doubled. We will hail with sincere gratitude a real Reunion, for it will be our star of prosperity.

Then let us all work for this earnestly and faithfully, and for nothing else. And let the figures we have given stimulate every one East and West, in our large churches and in our small ones, to enter anew upon the work our Lord hath given us to do. Let us through our own beloved Church, labor for the salvation of the perishing millions around us. Then the Lord will bless us and work yet mightier things in our Church and country. J. B. BRANDT. Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 25, 1868.

BETHESDA CHURCH.

Some time since we published the following circular. We call attention to it again: This infant church is now engaged in the work of erecting a house for the worship of God—the walls being about half way up. But help must be furnished, and it is earnestly hoped that every member of our city congregations, who has not already contributed, will make it a matter of conscience to do so.

PHILADELPHIA, June 8, 1868.

DEAR SIR:—Your attention is respectfully requested to the following statement concerning the Bethesda Presbyterian church in this city.

1. Six months ago in the entire District of Kensington and Port Richmond, comprising a population of about eighty thousand souls, there was but one New School Presbyterian church.

2. Rev. William T. Eva had been pastor of that church for seven years, and during that period, had received more than 450 persons to its communion. The whole membership had grown to nearly 1100. Their house of worship was crowded to its utmost capacity, every seat was rented and the Pew Committee had applications for two years in advance of their ability to supply accommodations.

3. In these circumstances, the 4th Presbytery of Philadelphia passed resolutions urging the formation of a colony, and the establishment of a new church in that quarter of the city. The recommendation was received with considerable hesitancy on the part of the congregation. The pastor, regarding it as a call of duty, and acting upon the suggestion of the Presbytery, resolved to lead off the movement. With 200 of the members of the Church, he went out from the crowded home, secured a place of worship and Sabbath-school, and began the new enterprise at a point three-fourths of a mile distant from the mother church.

4. On the 4th of December last, the Presbytery organized this company under the name of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. Since that time the new enterprise has been attended with the most signal and encouraging success. The church has received 54 persons to its communion, most of them on profession of faith, and a large proportion of these, persons who had not for years been in the habit of attending divine worship, so that now there is a membership of 250, a regular congregation of 500, and a Sabbath-school of 406.

church edifice should be erected at the earliest possible day. Accordingly a lot has been taken in an eligible place at the corner of Frankford Road and Vienna Street, and arrangements have been made for the work of the building. It is proposed to erect an edifice that will accommodate 1000 persons; were such a building available now there is not a doubt that it would be filled at once.

Plans have been prepared for a suitable house which can be built at a cost of about \$50,000. Contracts have been entered into with Mr. Wm. B. Ginnodo, Builder, to put the building under roof for the sum of \$32,000. It was not deemed prudent to go farther than this at present. The neighborhood is richer in people than in property. The congregation that has been drawn together is not wealthy. The members are willing and anxious to give or make sacrifices to carry on their good work, but they cannot contribute more than about half the sum required. Hence they are obliged to raise the question whether the other churches of our city can help them to the extent of the other half.

Such assistance must be afforded or a most important and promising enterprise will be dwarfed or crippled if not wholly defeated. Evidently the movement is of the Lord and ought to be helped. The work has been begun, the church organized, the property secured upon a thoroughly Presbyterian foundation. It should be carried forward and completed with the energy and liberality characteristic of the denomination.

To you, dear sir, the undersigned, a Committee in behalf of the Pastor's Association would most heartily commend this enterprise. We deem it worthy of earnest thought and devout prayer, and of the most Christian liberality. In a short time, you will be waited upon formally by the Rev. Mr. EVA or by some one of the Committee for your response to this appeal which we make in the name of Christ and for His cause

ALBERT BARNES, DANIEL MARCH, ROBERT ADAIR, THOS J. SHEPHERD, JOHN McLEOD.

COLLEGE RECORD.

BROWN UNIVERSITY (Providence, R. I.)—On Tuesday, September 1st, a general meeting of the Alumni was held in Manning Hall, and the scheme of founding Post-Graduate Scholarships was presented by President Caswell, and warmly advocated by Profs. Lincoln and Gammell of B. U., Fisher of Yale College, Lamson of Columbia College, and by others. The One Hundredth Annual Commencement was held on Wednesday the 2d of September. It was a day of great interest among the Alumni, of whom many were gathered back to their Alma Mater. Thirty young men were graduated. Twenty-five received the degree of Bachelor of Arts; and five the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. Seventeen gentlemen received the degree of A. M. in course, and the same degree was conferred as honorary upon Albert Carey Morse of Providence. The title of D.D. was conferred upon Adoniram Judson Huntington, Prof. of Greek in the Columbia College, Washington, D. C. Rev. James McCosh, President of the College in Princeton, N. J., and Rev. Howard Osgood, Prof. of Biblical Interpretation in the Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, Pa. L.L.D. was given to James B. Angell, President of the University of Vermont, Samuel Gridley Howe, M.D., Supt. of the Institution for the blind, Boston, Mass., and Nathan Clifford, Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. It was said, that Dr. McCosh, though he has twice or more received L.L.D., has never before received a D.D.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, (at Tuscaloosa,) "has fallen (says the Central Presbyterian,) into the hands of those Northern adventurers who have come to this region seeking for spoils. A Mr. A. S. Larkin, of Ohio, has been appointed President; a Joseph Kimball, of Massillon, Ohio, is to be Professor of Natural Philosophy; a J. M. Geery, of Oberlin, Ohio, has been elected Professor of Mathematics; and persons named D. Humphreys and T. M. Goodfellow, both of Ohio, have been chosen Professors in other departments." The Montgomery Mail says: "What is to be done? These men will not, of course, get a dozen students to sit under the droppings of their genius. They do not expect it. They only expect to draw annually twenty-five hundred dollars for the President, and two thousand dollars for each Professor, from the State Treasury, and occupy the public buildings at Tuscaloosa free of rent." We are glad that those of our Northern people who wish to contribute to Southern educational institutions can now do so through this channel without contributing to the perpetuity of the "Lost Cause." We will trust the Northern professors in the matter of gathering students. Probably they won't be particular in regard to color.

EMORY COLLEGE, VA.—There are now awaiting the opening of the next session, five Indians. They are from the Indian Nation, and belong to the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes. Several of them are promising young men, and speak the English language fluently.

News of Our Churches.

CITY.—Dr. Johnson occupied his pulpit last Sabbath, morning and evening.—Dr. Humphrey will be in his place at Calvary next Sabbath.—Mr. Allen was back at Old Pine St. last Sunday. He has been preaching in Frankford and at Calvary.—Dr. March is in his accustomed place again.—Mr. Eva appeals again for aid in the work of erecting the new house of worship for Bethesda church.—The Press of Saturday says: "It will be seen in another column that a new feature is about to be introduced in the North Broad street Presbyterian church service. The pastor, Rev. Dr. Stryker, who is a great friend of the children, proposes to-morrow afternoon, and on the afternoon of the first Sabbath in each month, to preach a sermon to the children. This will be a regular church service; and we doubt not will prove very popular. Simple truth is what is demanded in this age, and what interests and pleases the children is sure to prove acceptable to adults." Dr. Stryker is also introducing the system of adult classes in the Sabbath-school.

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LOMBARD ST. CENTRAL CHURCH.—This church has thoroughly repaired their house of worship at a cost of about \$2,000. This measure was found highly necessary with a view to their continued and increased efficiency, and has elicited very liberal contributions from the members of the congregation. There is, however, a balance of some \$800 still due, to raise which they are obliged to ask the aid of their brethren in this city. We cordially commend them to the Christian liberality of our churches, the more so as they have evinced a hearty determination to help themselves. They have but recently paid off all the old debt of the congregation, and have secured the continuance of the services of their able and talented pastor, Rev. John B. Reeve, by an increase of his salary.

The church is to be re-opened on next Sabbath, when Mr. Reeve will preach in the morning and Mr. Allen, of Pine St. church, in the afternoon. We trust that many of our readers will be present, and will contribute according to their ability to the cause then presented.

CHURCHES.—Second, Cincinnati.—The Trustees have an offer of \$200,000 for the church property, which is located on Fourth street, of the "Queen City." The offer comes from Emery brothers, who want to erect a fine block of stores on its site.

Pittsburgh, Third, will send four of its young men to Auburn, next term. MINISTERIAL.—Rev. Benjamin Mills.—The Cheyenne Leader of August 26, says: "Rev. Benjamin Mills, of the Rock Hill Presbyterian church, of St. Louis, who has come to the West for the purpose of exploring this extensive field for missionary labors, favored us with a call this morning. Mr. Mills will examine the prospects for religious undertakings in Wyoming and Utah, and report to headquarters of the Presbyterian Home Missionary Committee."

Rev. James Walker, some one writes the Evangelist, "last year at Tekonsha, has just gone to Pawnee. The warehouse was burned, and all his household furniture, clothing, and books are consumed. Cannot some church send him a box of clothing? Will not some superannuated ministers send him books?" Mr. Walker is one of our Home Missionaries, a most worthy man, and a veteran in the service. He was a member of the last General Assembly. His loss—a severe one to him—should be made good at once by the friends of Missions.

Rev. Dr. Adams was to re-occupy the pulpit of Madison Square church, New York, last Sabbath.

Rev. D. B. Campbell, late of Wenona, has accepted a call from the churches of Dover and Clayton, Lenawee county, Mich., and removed to the latter place.

Rev. Willard M. Hoyt, late of Chaumont, N. Y., has removed to Mendota, Wis.

Rev. H. H. Kellogg has changed his post office from Marshfield to Des Moines, Iowa.

Rev. Parregh Vartokian, of Constantinople, an Armenian, preached on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 30, to a score or more of Armenian residents of New York, in the lecture-room of Dr. Burchard's church, in Thirteenth street. The gentleman proposes buying lands at the South for the settlement of an Armenian Protestant colony. The sermon alluded to the considerable number of Protestant Armenians at Constantinople, and their desire to live in a land of religious toleration where a more extended communion with those of their own faith could be enjoyed. The American missionaries had pointed to the United States as that promised land, and as being one that offered a climate in its Southern section corresponding with that of the Mediterranean. The speaker expressed a desire to receive any suggestions toward carrying out his views.—The Evangelist.

PRESBYTERIES.—Crawfordsville met at Alamo, Ind., Aug. 21. The young church there is hopeful, and zealous in the work of erecting a house of worship. The overture of the General Assembly concerning the reunion of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church, after a free discussion, was answered in the affirmative, without a dissenting voice; two members, however, at their own request, being excused from voting. A call from Center church, Crawfordsville, to Rev. J. Safford to become their pastor, was received and put into the hands of Mr. Safford, and upon information of its acceptance the Presbytery fixed upon the Saturday before the second Sabbath in September for the installation. A committee was appointed (as recommended by the Assembly) to secure the holding of a Sabbath-school Institute within bounds of the Presbytery. It was "Resolved, That for the more efficient support of our own benevolent agencies, this Presbytery enjoins upon each of the churches under its care to take up collections, so far as practicable in the following order: For Foreign Missions, in September; for ministerial Relief, in November; for Education in the ministry, in January; for Home Missions, in March; and for Publication, July." Rev. W. N. Steele was re-appointed as Presbyterial Missionary.

LANE SEMINARY.—Dr. William H. Mussey, professor of Operative Surgery in the Miami Medical College, and widely known as one of the most skillful physicians of the West, has consented to deliver a course of lectures to the students of Lane Seminary, during the approaching session, on such subjects in the department of Hygiene as will be likely to interest and profit those connected with the institution. There is reason to hope that the lectures of Dr. Mussey will be followed in succeeding years by others on kindred subjects, to be delivered by professors in the same institution, and by other distinguished physicians of Cincinnati. Such an annual course will doubtless prove of great benefit to the students, and become an additional attraction to those who desire a broad and healthful theological culture. The next term at Lane commences on Thursday, September 10th. The Faculty are making every practical preparation to welcome the students, and make them comfortable during the year. The new Boarding Hall is approaching completion; and when finished, will be a far more pleasant and convenient building than its predecessor. We solicit for the Seminary; and

for its officers and students, a special place in the prayers and sympathies of the Church during the coming year.—The Christian Herald.

THE BIBLE IN THE SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.—At the Fall meeting of one of our Indiana Presbyteries—a correspondent of The Christian Herald informs us—a ruling Elder gave an account of a Union Sab. school, in which the people represented were so diverse that it was found unwise to introduce any question books, or any of the popular Sunday-school literature of the day, because, introduce what they might, it was likely to offend the prejudices of some denomination. For this reason this rector the singular spectacle was witnessed of a Sunday-school that had only one text-book, the Bible. The teachers expounded that one book, and found their scholars apparently very deeply interested—as much so as is common in schools having more machinery and a larger literature. There were about thirty scholars in the school, and before the year was through almost all those scholars were converted and added to the several churches. "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple."

Religious Intelligence.

THE REFORMED CHURCHES.

CITY.—The Tenth O. S. church, which had been closed during the month of August for repairs, will be opened on Sunday next. Dr. McIlvaine, of Princeton, has been engaged to supply the pulpit for a month, and will probably preach until the return of Dr. Boardman. The Ger. Ref. Zion church on sixth street above Grand avenue, has undergone repairs, which will cost about \$3000. The congregation of this church is large, and strong financially.—In 1818, the German Reformed Church had but a single congregation in this city, which worshipped in the church in Race street, below Fourth. Upon the introduction of the English language, the German portion of the congregation left, and, in 1819, erected the church in St. John's street, below Green, of which Dr. S. H. Biggins was pastor for over a quarter of a century. In 1851, this congregation commenced colonizing, and since that time six other German congregations were organized in various parts of the city. The first was the one in Howard street, above Thompson; the second, Zion church. The membership of the latter is 700, whilst the mother congregation, in St. John street, numbers more than twice as many members. The Howard street church has recently been re-painted, re-frescoed, and thoroughly renovated.

CHURCHES.—The Presbyterian church in Georgetown, Delaware, which has been ministered to during his vacation, by Mr. W. W. Page, of Princeton Seminary, has been blessed by the presence of the Spirit of God, in the ordinary means of grace. During the month of August fifteen were added to her membership.—Presbyterian.—The little Presbyterian church of Shanghai, numbering fifty members, has selected one of its members to labor as an evangelist in one of the villages about Ka-Shen. This missionary is supported entirely at the expense of these native Christians.—On the third Sabbath of August, there was a "Westminster church" organized in the south-western corner of Pitts Co., Mo., on the line of the railroad now building from Sedalia, Mo., to the south-west of the State. Elected members for the present constitute the organization, but others have made their arrangements to come.

Rev. Dr. McCosh.—Before Dr. McCosh takes his departure for America, his friends in Ireland intend to present him with an address expressive of the esteem and regard which they cherish towards him, and their high sense of the services which he has rendered to the cause of evangelical Christianity. The movement has already made considerable progress: and among those who have appended their names to address are Lord Dufferin, Sir Edward Coey, (the Mayor of Belfast), and a number of leading public men in the North of Ireland belonging to the different Protestant denominations. It is most probable that a piece of plate will be presented to the reverend doctor at the same time. According to present arrangements, he is to sail from Liverpool on the 1st of September. Hopes are entertained that he will be instrumental in drawing together still closer the various evangelical communities that exist in the two countries. One of his first labors in this direction will be to get up a successful meeting in the United States of that Conference of the Evangelical Alliance which it is contemplated to hold there. From his connection and influence with the leaders of the Protestant denominations in Europe and America, his services in a work of this kind cannot be overestimated.—Christian World.

Over-Sea Items.—The Irish Assembly's Church Extension Committee have secured the erection of a neat Gothic house of worship at Killarney, which will seat 400 people, and was opened for divine service August 16th. This is mainly to accommodate tourists to the lakes, similar provision having been made in other romantic localities of the South and West. In Cork there are two Presbyterian churches, elegant and comfortable. In Queenstown the Presbyterian church occupies one of the finest sites in the town; in Mallow there is a beautiful little church erected by a Mr. Baird; in Limerick, Bandon, Clonmel, Waterford, Templemore, Kilkenny, Fermoy, and Lismore, the General Assembly has organized regular churches, and the Gospel is preached in purity and simplicity.—A tasteful new stone church has been erected in Hull, England, for the E. P. congregation. They have called Rev. W. P. Mackay, a licentiate of the Free Church.—Notice of a motion for an overture to the English Synod for the establishment of a Sustentation Fund was given at the last meeting of the E. P. Presbytery of Warwick. The E. P. Church is in most ways characteristic feature. The Free Church Fund (taking the whole Church) shows a provision of £1,300 in the two months succeeding the meeting of the Assembly.—Rev. James Orr Scott was recently ordained at Belfast as missionary to the Jews at Damascus, in connection with the Irish Presbyterian Church. This is the mission with which Prof. J. L. Porter was connected.—Dr. Gleig expresses his unwillingness to let the Edinburgh Town Council thrust him into the late Dr. Lee's pulpit at Old Greyfriars, against the wishes of the people. The congregation reaffirm their unwillingness to accept him, although he is willing to have them stand in singing, kneel in prayer, employ an organ, and to do everything but use Dr. Lee's prayer-book. They reply that the liturgy is not the difficulty in the way. The Presbyterian church at Plymouth built (of iron) about two years ago by the Irish Assembly for the use, mainly, of Irish Presbyterian soldiers, and accommodating nearly 700 people, has grown and small for the mixed congregation of civilians and soldiers who have gathered under the ministry of Rev. Jos. Wood. The corner-stone of a new edifice of stone and in the Italian style, to accommodate 1100 people, was laid in the beginning of August, by a Capt. Hutchinson, a member of the Church of England, who pointed out on the East of their church a Roman nunnery, cathedral and schools, and on the West, Ritualistic schools and a Tractarian nunnery, saying that there was nothing at hand to combat these allies in error but this little iron church.

Items.—Some of the British officers stationed in Canada having commenced to preach publicly