

Religious Intelligence.

THE REFORMED CHURCHES.

City.—An Eastern paper says: "The late Matthew Newkirk, Esq., of Philadelphia, was identified with the early history of Lafayette College, and though subsequently a Trustee at Princeton, his interest in the former institution continued unabated till the end of his life. In a letter to the Trustees of Lafayette College, his son, the Rev. Matthew Newkirk, refers to these facts, and generously offers to pay the sum necessary to complete one of the new 'Students' Halls' now being erected on the College grounds. The donation has been accepted, and the authorities of the college have given the name of 'Newkirk Hall' to the new building. The U. P. Presbytery of Philadelphia met in the last week of 1868 in the newly erected, Norris Square church, Kensington. Rev. Alexander Calhoun was received from the Presbytery of Monongahela, and arrangements were made for his installation over the Fifth church (late Mr. Hanna's). A licentiate, (A. R. M. Ross,) having been duly cited, was tried in his absence for presenting a fraudulent certificate and being found guilty, his name was stricken from the roll. Delegates (Liberals,) to the next Assembly were chosen. In view of certain rumors which had come to the knowledge of the Presbytery, and of the fact that this Church prohibits its members from making or vending ardent spirits, the sessions were ordered to report any members guilty of these practices, and whether they have been dealt with. Also in view of the "discouraging and threatening aspect" of the denominational finances, the membership were urged to prayerful consideration of the subject, and to more liberal contributions, and the General Assembly was overtured to devise some means of escaping from the present and impending embarrassments.—January 3d, the North Broad St. U. P. mission church dedicated their new stone house of worship, situated on Master St. above Fifteenth, in a rapidly growing part of the city. It will accommodate 400 people. During the day the pastor elect, Rev. Lafayette Marks, was assisted by the pastors of sister congregations, and collections amounting to \$5,000 were taken up.

Ministerial.—Rev. Wm. T. Findley, D.D., of Xenia, O., has resigned the pastoral charge of the church of that city. He has received a call from Newark, N. J.—Rev. James I. Brownson, D. D., pastor of the First church of Washington, Pa., preached his twentieth anniversary sermon, Dec. 27. Only one person of those who signed his call twenty years ago was present at this service: of the one hundred and twenty-five families composing the congregation, only forty remain; and the persons received in these twenty years by certificate and examination added to those in communion at the time of his installation are six times the present membership, although the church is stronger than ever before.—At a late meeting of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, Pa., Rev. Garrett Van Arsdale was deposed from the office of the gospel ministry.—The pastoral relation existing so long between the Rev. Thomas Sprout, D.D., and the R. P. church (O. S.) in Allegheny has been dissolved, that doctor may devote himself to his duties as a professor in the Theological Seminary. The congregation entered the basement of its new house of worship on Sandusky St., Jan. 3.—At the meeting of the U. P. Presbytery of Monmouth, Ill., Rev. David A. Wallace, D.D., was released, according to his request, from his position of co-pastor of the Second church, Monmouth, in order to devote his whole time to the college. A certificate was granted to W. J. M'Curry to connect with the Presbytery of Cincinnati (O. S.)—A meeting of the U. P. Presbytery of Frankfort, Rev. Mr. Stuart, of the Associate Church, applied to be received, and his papers were referred to a Commission, who were empowered to correspond with the Associate Presbytery of Muskingum.—It is understood Rev. L. J. Halsey, D.D., of Frankfort, Ky.—Rev. George M. McClellan, formerly pastor of the First Reformed [Dutch] church in Poughkeepsie, New York, has accepted a call to the Westminster church, New York city, and entered upon his duties.—The pastoral relation existing between the Rev. S. T. Wilson, D.D., and the First Presbyterian church of Rock Island, of which he has been pastor during fourteen years, has been dissolved.—Rev. William R. Glen, has received a unanimous call to become the pastor of the First Church (O. S.) of Bloomington, Ill., after supplying the pulpit for the last seven months.—Rev. W. A. Hendrickson, of Cottage Grove, Wis., has received a call from the church of Madison.

Churches.—Of the 275 churches on record as organized by eight Protestant denominations (Methodists not reported), in the United States during the year 1868, 80 were Presbyterian, 2 German Reformed, 1 Reformed [Dutch], and 3 Episcopalians, making for the Reformed Churches a total of 86, while the Baptists organized 126, and the Congregationalists 75. Of the 474 church edifices dedicated during the same year by nine Protestant denominations, 100 were by the Presbyterians, 14 by the German Reformed, 13 by the Episcopalians, and 9 by the Reformed [Dutch], making a total of 136 for the "Reformed Churches," while the Methodists had 129, the Baptists 100, the Congregationalists 65, and the Lutherans 43.—The Reformed [Dutch] church in Ghent, N. Y., was totally destroyed by fire at about three o'clock on Thursday morning, Dec. 24th. It was a large wooden edifice, and one of the oldest churches in the country. A Christmas festival was held the night previous.—The Reformed [Dutch] church in Centreville, Mich., have been so strengthened by a revival in their midst, that they have exchanged their small and inconvenient house of worship for a finer one, costing \$5,000.—Jan. 3, 42 were added to the Beach St. O. S. church, of Boston; 23 by certificate, and 19 on profession. 72 have been added to the church since the installation of Rev. James B. Dunn, three months ago.—The large edifice is now filled at each Sunday service, and on three evenings in the week the vestry is crowded. In the O. S. church at East Boston, there is considerable religious interest, and quite a large number will be added in a few weeks Sabbath, Dec. 20, thirteen united with the Second church of Steubenville, nine of whom were pupils in the Female Seminary.—The Cumberland church on Sixth Avenue, Pittsburg, has resolved to make the sittings free, and to support the church by voluntary subscription.—The Belvedere church, of Pittsburg, Pa., was destroyed by fire on a recent Sabbath. The church was a new one, and had been occupied by the congregation but a short time. It was insured for \$20,000, which does not cover the loss.—The church of Leontonia, O., received some two weeks ago seventeen members, which more than doubled its communicants.—The U. P. Church has a Presbytery in Oregon and a mission church in San Francisco. The pastor of the latter, Rev. M. M. Gibson reports a very promising mission field in Salinas City, Cal. "The members and adherents of our Church in this locality have subscribed enough to support a missionary. The Executive Committee is endeavoring to work in that place,"—Eighteen hundred and eighty-three scholars were present at the "South Mission" Sabbath-school, in St. Louis, on December 13th, and a still larger number on the following Sabbath. The school is under the charge of the Second Presbyterian church.—The North church of Washington, D. C., organized December 1st, 1868, with twenty-one members, has become self-sustaining. During the past summer, their house of worship has been thoroughly refurnished, frescoed, and painted, at a

cost of some \$1,500, and is now one of the neatest churches in the District. The pastor's salary has been increased, and the church is entirely out of debt.—A great work of grace has been in progress in Upper Tuscarora (Pa.) church for more than three weeks. There have been upwards of sixty inquirers, of whom twenty-five or twenty-six have expressed hope.

Church Courts.—The O. S. Presbytery, of Beaver, Pa., approves of the Basis of Union by a vote of 22 to 5, while expressing a unanimous preference for "the Standards." Rev. Robert McMillan, and the church of Reform, of which he is pastor, were received from the Reformed Presbytery of Pittsburg, and Rev. D. C. Cooper from the Presbytery of Chicago. Mr. Cooper has for several years been pastor of the church in Elgin, Ill., which went over with him to the O. S., being the only Presbyterian church in the place. But Elgin is too much of a Yankee town for any species of Presbyterian rigidity to prosper there.—The Presbytery of Ohio met in the Second church, Pittsburg. The special Committee on Missions was authorized to organize a church at Torrence Station, and also at Oakdale, as soon as the way be clear. The establishment of a Female Seminary by members of the church in East Liberty, was voted to be a matter of gratulation.—Churches ascertained by call of the roll to be delinquents in regard to any of the Assembly's causes, were admonished. The session of Hope-well church were enjoined not to allow Wm. Hunter to again occupy their pulpit, as his name had been stricken from the roll at his own request, and provision was made for their supply. Sympathy was expressed for the infant church in Bellefield, who have lost a beautiful house of worship, by fire, and a talented pastor (Davidson), by death.—The Synod of Sandusky, at its recent meeting, called attention to the prevalence of the practice of ministers of the gospel engaging in such secular callings as are purely mercenary, as agencies. The Synod says that many ministers are thus employed who hold official stations in the Church, and the evil is so manifest that, in its judgment, the Assembly ought to take immediate action in reference to it.—In the U. P. Presbytery, of Monongahela, the petition of James Presley, laid on the table of Presbytery July 24, 1867, until a petition for divorce, then pending in the civil courts, was decided, was taken up, and both his requests, viz.: 1. "Restoration to membership in the church," and 2. Restoration to the exercise of the ministerial office," unopposedly refused. Presbytery feeling no evidence of repentance, and regarding his case as having new complications on his part of late, and looking to the infliction of the higher censures of the church upon him, appointed a committee to draft a memorial to the next General Assembly, asking advice in the premises.—The Occident, of San Francisco, noting the defeat of the Basis of Union, by the O. S. Presbyteries, adds: "The New School Presbyteries are largely in favor of agreement as it is, and it is not probable that any agreement that the announcement must be made."—The Scottish Movement.—(1.) The scheme set on foot by the Free Church for insuring her own ecclesiastical buildings, bids fair to be a successful one. A great number of the congregations have already expressed their approval of it in such a way as to show that they repose confidence in the judgment of the committee having charge of the matter. If the scheme be generally adopted, a saving of something like \$3000 a year is expected to be effected for church and missionary objects. (2.) The Established Church of Scotland is taking measures to obtain from Parliament, if practicable, the repeal or modification of the Law of Patronage—a law which has been the occasion of great trouble in that Church. The great problem of religious liberty without patronage or partiality for any one denomination, is yet to be worked out in Great Britain and other European countries. (3.) A meeting was recently held in Glasgow for the purpose of improving the condition of the Indian missionaries in the Established Church of Scotland. Dr. McLeod made an affecting address, in which he related what he had witnessed during a late visit to these missions. His object is to raise twenty thousand pounds, in order to secure a pension of one hundred and fifty pounds for every retiring missionary who has spent twenty-five years in the work in India.

Another Delegation from Europe.—Rev. A. V. L. Lander, pastor of a Reformed Church in Prague, Bohemia, writes to Dr. Prime, of The N. Y. Observer, under date of Dec. 10:—"Having had the pleasure of meeting you two years ago at the Annual Conference of the Evangelical Alliance in Bath, (England,) and having heard of the warm interest you expressed in the condition of the Protestants in Bohemia, I am sure you will like to hear that, in consequence of a visit made by the Rev. Dr. Kendall, of New York, to this country, last summer, and of an invitation expressed by the same, that a deputation from Bohemia should visit the United States next spring, it has been resolved to comply with the said invitation, and two very excellent men have been requested and have consented to proceed to America in the early part of the coming year. They are the Rev. Pastor Von Karly, Upper Church-counselor, and the Rev. J. J. Kays, who, having spent some time in Scotland, speaks English very well. I feel quite confident you will be ready to welcome and assist these brethren when (D. V.) they come to the United States."

Work Among the Belgian Settlers of Wisconsin.—On the isthmus, lying between Green Bay and Lake Winnebago, on the one side, and Lake Michigan on the other side, a large body of Belgians settled a few years ago. Their number is about ten or fifteen thousand, and they are spread over three or four counties. These people are Romanists in religion, and are, most of them, extremely ignorant. To instruct them in the true doctrines of the gospel, a gracious Providence has provided and sent, hither two pious and zealous French laborers, the Rev. Henry Morrell and Mr. Eugene Laporte. Aided by the churches of the O. S. Synod of Wisconsin, they have for some years been at work to guide these Belgians to the cross of Christ. They maintain preaching and schools at various points, but especially at Robinsonville and St. Sauveur. The Lord is blessing their labors. They have found favor in the eyes of a large portion of the people. Their schools are well attended. Twenty-four hopeful conversions were reported last year, and many serious inquirers are coming to them for personal instruction in regard to their souls' affairs.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS.—Episcopal.—Peter Bayne writes to the Watchman and Reflector: "The primacy of the Church of England, which it fell to Mr. Disraeli to bestow, has been given to Dr. Tait, late Bishop of London. He is an able man, but of temporizing shifting, Erastian views as to church government. The grand aim of his ecclesiastical administration will be to keep things smooth, and to continue the union between Church and State in England." The appointment is credited ultimately to her Majesty, of whom a London correspondent says: "Her Majesty has no sympathy with the High Church nor with the Low Church; her opinions are now, as they were when she published the selections from Zechokke, extremely broad Church; approaching, in her usually termed Royalist type, to Dean Stanley, and I believe it is perfectly true that she would not be likely to be true to make the Disraeli of Canterbury."—Rev. Charles H. Hall, rector of Epiphany church, Washington, D. C., has been selected rector of Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, N. Y., and will vacate by

the election of Dr. Littlejohn to the Bishopric of Long Island.—Professor Eli T. Tappan, of Ohio University, has been elected to the Presidency of Kenyon College, at Gambier, Ohio.—The N. Y. Evening Post contains the following advertisement: "For sale cheap, my new No. — Christ church. It was a very desirable pew, and was in great demand before Protestantism was called a failure." The Pacific says of Rev. Ferdinand C. Ewer, the rector of this church, and the author of sundry sensational sermons recently published on "Protestantism a failure": "We knew him when, in Sacramento, he was one of the editors of the first Democratic paper ever published there. In those days, being a graduate of Harvard, he was addicted to Emersonian poetry and philosophy; and regarded Christianity only as one of the religions, and believed in Buddha or Brahma as much as he did in the Trinity. He went to no church at all. After a few years he removed to this city, and here engaged in various literary and business pursuits. He was publishing here a not very brilliant magazine, upon the model of the old Knickerbocker Magazine, in 1856, and plunged into Spiritism, when that issue first came along this way. He filled many pages of the magazine with the silly marvels of that 'beautiful faith.' But the magazine died from it, and he himself declined from it. The next we knew of him, to our surprise we learned he was engaged in 'study preparatory to taking orders under Bishop Kip. He preached in this city a year or two subsequent to 1860.—The New York Herald says that Father Morrill, of St. Albans, has established a ritual confession, and there is little difference between his and the Roman Catholic service, save that it is in English. Dr. Dix, of Trinity, who occasionally preaches for him, has not yet denied the charge of The Catholic World that he also encourages ritual confession."

Congregationalist.—The Central church, Berkeley street, Boston, (Rev. Mr. Todd's) inaugurated this year, the custom of presenting a handsome Bible to every baptized child of the age of seven years, on Christmas morning. The service took place at the church, at the usual hour for Sunday services.—At the annual meeting of Henry Ward Beecher's church, Dec. 11th, the income from pew rents the past year was reported at about \$50,000; donations to benevolent objects, \$40,000; besides the new mission school building, erected at an expense of \$60,775. The proposals were chosen for the year, and, on the proposal of Mr. Beecher, it was voted almost unanimously to revive the office of deacons.—And Mrs. Morrill, Mrs. Fanning, and Mrs. Thalhimer were then, unanimously chosen the first deaconesses of Plymouth church. The annual sale of books was held last month. The annual sale of books was held last month. The amount realized (premium in addition to a fixed pew-rent) was \$42,500, while the pew-rent aggregates \$54,000. That portion of the church at Washington who sustain Rev. Dr. Boynton, the pastor, have issued a pamphlet of sixteen large and closely printed pages, presenting their side of the case, and sharply reviewing the course of the minority. The recent statement of William B. Hooper, they pronounce "in every essential particular positively untrue."—The American Missionary Association are making a purchase of 3,000 acres of land in Mississippi, a gentleman having promised to erect on the tract a Normal School building worth \$12,000. One subscription of \$500 toward the land has been received in New Bedford. Mr. Elisha Hathaway of Bristol, N. Y., is some months since gave the Association \$1,000, with which to purchase land in Talladega, Ala., to be sold to the freedmen in lots of ten to twenty acres.

The West.—The church in Springfield, Ill., of which Rev. J. K. McLean is pastor, dedicated their new house of worship on the evening of December 1st. It is of wood, 40x70 feet, and cost \$100,000, besides the lot, which was bought for \$6,000. The churches of Farmington, Auburndale, and West Newton, Mass., of Jersey City, and of Amboy, Jacksonville, and Waverly, Ill., expressed their fellowship by putting in, each, a stained window at an expense of \$35. By a unanimous vote, the seats are to be free. A subscription for monthly payments will be relied upon.—The church in Shullsburg, Wisconsin, Rev. A. M. Dixon, D. D., pastor, at their last communion solemnly set apart two brethren to act as lay preachers in an adjacent neighborhood, where a branch church has been organized.—The 158 churches in Wisconsin report a membership of 10,126, almost two-thirds of them females, an increase of about 400 since last year. Sixty-five churches (out of 171) have received accessions during the year.—In Missouri, six churches have been organized during the year, making 47 in all. In 1864 there were but two—Dr. Post's, of St. Louis, and Mr. Starvevant's, in Hannibal. But four of these churches are able to go without the aid of the Home Missionary Society, and the Congregational Union has aided all but three of those which have built houses of worship.—The churches in Minnesota report 70 churches with 55 ministers, 6 of whom are pastors, and 39 acting pastors; total membership, 2,865; added during the year, 408; whole number in Sabbath schools, 3,820; amount of benevolent contributions, \$5,004.19.—The Rev. J. D. Bell, a graduate of Amherst College, heretofore a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, after preaching several Sabbaths to the Congregational church at Monticello, Minn., has accepted a unanimous invitation to become their minister.

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