

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1869.

REV. JOHN W. MEARS, D. D., Editor. No. 1334 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.

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Rev. Samuel W. Duffield, Special Correspondent. Mr. Robert E. Thompson will continue to act as Editor of the News Department.

Correspondents in every Presbytery and Synod will promptly furnish us with fresh items of news from their respective fields.

Rev. A. M. Stewart's Letters, XXIX. Anniversary of Harrisburg Sunday-school, Quiet by Dorcas Hicks, Old Congress Bible, Dr. Bacon on the Assembly of 1831, Foreign Items, page 2nd; Editor's Table, Interesting Planetary Discoveries, Submarine Earthquake, Scientific Items, page 3rd; Red Riding Hood (Poetry), Julian Reed's Punishment, Compass and a Firefly, Old and True Friend, Sunshine and Rain, Encourage the Young, Letter from Worms, Preaching and Prayer, Happy Rejoinder, Rail-Roads and the Sabbath, Items, page 6th; Religious Intelligence, Reformed Churches, Episcopal, Congregationalist, Baptist, Methodist, Romanist, Nothingarians, Jewish, page 7th.

The two leading Quarterlies of both branches of the Presbyterian Church are now issued by Charles Scribner & Co., and both of them appear in greatly improved form in the opening numbers for 1869. Mention has already been of the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, edited by Prof. H. B. Smith and Rev. J. M. Sherwood. It is much enlarged, affording room for copied articles from Foreign Reviews, and for an extensive department of Theological and Literary Intelligence, which has always been a marked feature of this periodical.

The January number of the PRINCETON REVIEW, just received, bears the names of Drs. Hodge and Atwater on its title page, and contains an admirable and varied list of topics, printed with an elegance which might alarm even Dr. Draper of Andover. Of course, with its present editors, it is quite as partisan as ever. Vide article on Dr. Baird's History, of the New School, in which the main positions of Dr. Baird are heartily endorsed. Price \$3.

THE NURSERY, by John L. Shorey, Boston, is one of the most complete and appropriate of the monthlies, intended for the youngest children who can be entertained by literary and artistic efforts. It is certain to make the eyes of the little ones sparkle, and their hearts dance with glee. Mr. DUFFIELD ASHMEAD, of this city, is agent. \$1.00 a year.

SUMMARY.

One New York Presbytery, Oswego, prefers the Joint Committee's basis, but consents to reunion at once on the "standards pure and simple;" Union presbytery consents also to immediate reunion, provided the Xth Article be also stricken from the basis. Our last summary mentioned Waterdown Presbytery also agreeing to immediate reunion—we should have said the St. Lawrence.

One minister has accepted a call to a Congregational church, another to a church of the other branch; one ordination, Wm. H. Bates, (overlooked in last summary)—14 Auburn Students received by Cayuga Presbytery. One O. S. licentiate called to two of our churches. Four recent dedications, and one rededication are reported, in the new Presbytery of Lansing, Mich., and three more buildings, are about ready for occupancy.

The committee of Home Missions have recently chosen Mr. Mitchell, member of the Evangelical branch of the Friends, and formerly agent of the Penna. Branch of the Freedmen's Relief, a man of excellent spirit, and wide experience at home and abroad, as Secretary of its work among the Freedmen. The call is chiefly for teachers, fifty of whom are at work under the committee's care.

A number of ladies have lately presented a fine portrait of Mr. Barnes, by Marchant, to the Pastors' Association of this city. One hundred thousand dollars were subscribed Jan. 28th, in New York, by the Methodist laymen, towards a fund of half a million for building churches in destitute parts of the city. Four church enterprises are already on hand, and others will be undertaken. Our subscription of \$105,000 is hanging for want of about one-third of the amount.

REV. A. M. STEWART, our popular correspondent from the Pacific Coast, started for the East, if his arrangements of three weeks ago were carried out, on last Monday. He will make the journey across the plains and will not be in East Whiteland before the 1st of April. His arrangements are all made to leave for the Pacific coast immediately after the meeting of the General Assembly. Until that meeting, his address will remain as at present, Frazer, Chester Co., Pa. Mr. Stewart has prepared a lecture on the GREAT AMERICAN BASIN to be delivered before the Y. M. C. A. of East Whiteland. He will be able to make engagements for a few deliveries of the lectures at other places. It will prove useful, entertaining, racy and instructive.

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

The Rochester Correspondent has been "abroad." You may not have missed him, and yet he has been in a "foreign country." So, at least, it seemed at once, on crossing the St. Lawrence at Ogdensburg, and starting for Montreal. The little, low houses of the French habitants, the small barns, the unthrifty appearance of fences and outhouses, were, at least, in striking contrast with what we see in travelling through the farming regions of Central and Western New York.

But Montreal, although so unlike anything we have in "the States," is a grand city. It is built as though it was intended to last forever, and its generous, graceful hospitality, if we may judge from our own experience, knows no bounds.

But we were there to attend the anniversaries, and of those we must write. They do not occur in May, but in January, when everybody has leisure to attend to them. That of the Sabbath Association was held on Monday evening, at which the following statement was made, in respect to street railways, highly creditable to the city of brotherly love, if true: "The railway company [which one?] in the latter city (Philadelphia) observed the Sabbath while the Boston company did not, and though the traffic and tariff of the Boston company were higher than those of the Philadelphia company, the latter cleared \$220 per horse during the year, and the other only \$110 per horse. Sunday labor occasioned a wear and tear of carriages, horses, and men, which were destructive to prosperity."

The 32d Anniversary of the "Canada Sunday School Union," was held on Tuesday evening; the "48th Annual Meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society," on Wednesday evening; the French-Canadian-Missionary Society on Thursday evening; and the Pact Society on Friday evening. This is the series.

The place of meeting was the Wesleyan Methodist church, in Great St. James Street, a building which they say will accommodate three thousand hearers. This, we should think, an over-estimate, but the building is very large, and has very deep galleries all round. When crowded to its utmost capacity it reminded us of the old Tabernacle of New York, in the palmy days of the Anniversaries there. There was a grand and inspiring audience present, at least, on Wednesday evening, intelligence and moral worth enough to do great things for the Dominion, if they can be rightly directed.

Prominent among the speakers at these meetings were Dr. Miller of Ogdensburg, and that truly eloquent but thorough Scotchman, Dr. Burns of Chicago. We need not say that Dr. Miller spoke well, and did honor to his native country. There was another American very kindly heard on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings; but we disparage no one by giving Dr. Burns the chief honors of the occasion. He is quite at home on the platform. He speaks with great ease and power.

The reports of the various Societies indicated a good degree of prosperity. Our neighbors seem to be trying, much as we do in the States, to cultivate the waste places of their own land, and to care at the same time for the lands in deeper darkness far away. We heard some of them threatening very seriously to annex the United States to the Dominion, and so get us to help them do these various works of Christian beneficence. We said, "all right; annex us as soon as you please. The Dominion will be a great country when that is done."

THE AMERICAN CHURCH.

It has already gone forth that Rev. James B. Bonar is about to retire from the pastorate of the American church of Montreal. He preaches his farewell next Sunday evening. He leaves many warmly attached friends, and they do not let him go empty handed. A purse of \$1,500 has been raised, and is to be presented to him. The clerical Association are also to give him a sort of farewell ovation on Tuesday next in his own church. He will take up his residence for the present in New York; an able, honest man, well qualified to fill some important pulpit, which, we trust, will not wait long for his services.

The American church embraces some strong men among the most prosperous and influential in the city. Its beautiful, new church edifice is also well located, in that part of the city fast filling up with good residences. It ought to be, may be, and must be one of the most prosperous of religious societies, if the great Head of the Church shall be pleased to send them just the right man for their future pastor. For one of our ablest and best it presents a most inviting field, in which to reap a great harvest and get a glorious reward.

ITEMS.

Rev. Wm. H. Bates, a graduate of the last class of Auburn Seminary, was on the 20th instant ordained and installed pastor of the Presbyterian church of McGrawville, where he has been preaching very acceptably for six months past. The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Condit of Auburn.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Cayuga on the 19th instant, the following students of Auburn Seminary were received under care of the Presbytery, with a view to licensure for the ministry—Albert C. Sewall, Granville P. Sewall, Jos. G. Longley, Wm. C. Wetmore, Wm. R. Halbert, James M. Boyd, David James, Alex. B. Riggs, David R. Breed, James G. Butler, Chas. P. Colt, Chas. H. H. Wolfe, Henry M. Dodd, and Edward A. Reed.

The recital of the religious experience of these young men was unusually interesting, and brought out some facts which made a deep impression upon the minds of the Presbytery. One was of Roman Catholic parentage and early education. He will henceforth do what he can to propagate a better faith. All the others were children of Protestant Christian parents. Five were sons of clergymen, and four were sons of elders in one church. It is a goodly company. We hope they are all destined to great usefulness somewhere in the vineyard.

We hear from the pastor of a powerful revival of religion in the little church of Branchport. It is thought that as many as twenty have already found the Saviour, and others are asking after the way of life.

PALMYRA.

The enlarged and renovated church edifice of the Presbyterian Society of Palmyra, of whose improvements we have already given an account, was dedicated to Almighty God on Thursday, 28th instant. Rev. Horace Eaton, who has served that people most acceptably for twenty years in the pastorate, preached an able and interesting discourse, full of tender and touching reminiscences toward the close. The prayer of dedication was offered by Rev. G. R. H. Shumway of Newark; and Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Rochester, preached an admirable sermon in the evening; after which Rev. Dr. Goetner of Hamilton College, once pastor of the church, on behalf of two ladies, former members, made a presentation of a new and beautiful communion service. This was quite a surprise, and was admirably done. The ladies, one now living in Albany and one in New York, were life long friends, and were peculiarly endeared to each other, as they were married on the same day, and in the same service; to their respective husbands, in the old church edifice of this society. The gift is highly appreciated by the receivers, and will prove a lasting memorial of the fair and generous givers.

Rev. E. P. Hammond has now been laboring for a week in our beautiful city. The meetings commenced with a great crowd last Sunday evening, and so far have been held in the Central church—daily morning prayer meeting, full and tender,—and evening preaching; next week they are to be in the Brick Church. Already there are great tokens for good. Some striking conversions have occurred, and large numbers have arisen for prayers. We hope for still greater things.

We hear of more than unusual religious interest in Holley and Attica. We shall hope to hear still more favorable things ere long. Rochester, Jan. 30, 1869. GENEESE.

ITEMS FROM BOSTON.

Our Legislature, now in session, is very different from that of last year, and the friends of temperance have reason to expect, and do expect a repeal of the License, and re-enaction of the prohibitory law. In this, we know, you will rejoice with us. Our Governor, like yours, is a thorough temperance man.

There are hopeful things in some of the churches here. The 1st Presbyterian church, (O. S.) now under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Mr. Dunn, has been blessed ever since he has been with them. Their audiences are much larger than they have been at any former time; their Sabbath-school and Bible-classes much more encouraging, and he seems to be "the right man in the right place."

Our community are surfeited with lectures, concerts, lyceums, balls and gatherings of all kinds, so that one would think there was no room for any religious meetings; and yet, there have been some of considerable interest. Rev. Mr. Earle has been preaching at Rev. Dr. Eddy's Church, and several hopeful conversions are reported. The first Sabbath in this month additions were made to quite a number of the churches.

Our Young Men's Christian Associations are active, hold their noon-day meetings regularly, and are having a Sabbath evening course of sermons by the pastors of various denominations in "the old South church," which are numerously attended. The Unitarian denomination seem to have taken upon them a much more active spirit than heretofore, and are preaching Sabbath evenings in the Boston theatre, and raising up ministers by a shorter course than usual to propagate their peculiar views.

Park street church, you are aware, after a long vacancy in the pastoral office, are happily united in the Rev. Mr. Murray, and he is doing good service there. He is "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

Rev. Dr. Marsh's books are taking well among his numerous friends in New England. I hear them well spoken of everywhere.

We miss the fraternal gatherings of the various denominations here which we used to enjoy in your city. There may be as much fellowship among these here as there, but it does not exhibit itself in the same way. You know we had a twenty weeks' prayer-meeting, following the Week of Prayer with you, and no flagging. Such a thing would be a marvel here. We hope it will come. Yours, W. M. C.

ITEMS FROM WASHINGTON.

Sabbath evening, the 24th inst., at 7 o'clock, the Assembly's church was filled well with a highly intelligent and interested congregation, on the occasion of the installation of the Rev. Wm. Hart as pastor. In the absence of the acting Moderator, the writer presided, proposed the constitutional questions and delivered the charge to the people. The sermon from John xiii. 15, "I have given unto you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you"—was preached by the Rev. J. N. Coombs, of the Western Church. The charge to the pastor was by Rev. Dr. Sunderland, and was one of the Doctor's happiest efforts. I hope for the sake of clerical aspirants to the capital that the Doctor will publish it. The benediction was pronounced by the pastor, after which he was cordially greeted by his people. The church edifice has undergone a thorough renovation; the pulpit and pews have been modernized, the floor beautifully recarpeted and the house frescoed and outside painted. The whole appearance of the building is much improved, the congregation is increasing and the prospects of success quite encouraging. The salary raised for the present pastor is three times that paid to any of its former pastors.

It is announced in the Chronicle January 27, that the congregation of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, gave a unanimous call Jan. 26th to Rev. Mr. Mitchell, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; to the pastorate made vacant by the death of the lamented Dr. Gurley. The salary is fixed at \$5,000 per annum.

A Pastors' Association has been organized here, composed of pastors from all the evangelical denominations of the City and District of Columbia.

It meets every Monday at 2 o'clock, P.M., at the rooms of Y. M. C. A., over Metzert Hall, Pennsylvania Avenue.

A Clerical Convention was held two weeks ago, at which the usual subjects were brought forward and the usual amount of speeches made. A Woman's Rights Convention has also closed its session. Very many things are said in Washington and very few done. And now "all's quiet along the Potomac."

Congress.—The two subjects for declamation in Congress are the Currency question and the Washington Canal. The one is fifty lucra and the other looks filthy; and when both are purified and running clear the Millennium will not be far distant. GEO. H. SMYTH. January 27th, 1869.

MR. HAMMOND IN ROCHESTER.

S. M. C. (Dr. Campbell) thus writes to the Rochester Democrat, of January 25th, in regard to Mr. Hammond's present labors, and the results of similar labors six years previously:

"Mr. Hammond arrived in town Saturday evening, and commenced a series of meetings at the Central Church yesterday. He comes by a unanimous vote of the united sessions of the Brick Church, Westminster and Central, and is to alternate between these churches week by week. These churches assume the initiative in the movement, but they cordially invite the co-operation of all Christian people. Six years ago Mr. Hammond held a similar series of meetings in this city, and it is sometimes asked, 'What has become of the converts? Several hundreds were received into the churches at the time, and now, after the lapse of six years, who can find them?' At the Central Church, a careful investigation of this question has been made, with the following results: 'As the fruit of the revival season of 1863, one hundred and sixty-three (163) persons were received into the Central Church. This is not counting a large number who have united with the same church since that time who refer their conversion to that occasion. Of these 163, 153 are either in good standing in the church to-day, or have taken a regular dismission to other churches, or have died in hope. The remaining ten are marked 'unknown,' they having mostly removed from the city, but with the exception of two or three, they were, at last accounts, walking in an orderly, Christian manner. This is the record of a church that was, for nearly two years subsequent to Mr. Hammond's labors, virtually without a pastor. Of the 163 new recruits, only ten, missing at the end of six years, and those ten most of them doing well at last accounts. This statement can be relied upon, and it shows a condition of things almost without parallel in the history of revivals. S. M. C."

In regard to the opening services, the Evening Express, of the same date, says: "Mr. Hammond, the celebrated Revivalist, delivered his opening discourse last night at the Central church. The house was densely crowded, the aisles being filled with benches, and the ushers hardly able to force their way through the people who were totally unable to obtain seats. Many were obliged to leave, unable to even enter the house."

PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT ELECT.

The Philadelphia Pastoral Association, N. S. on Monday last, took the following action:—"Resolved, That this Association, having had its attention called to a suggestion that the evening of the fourth of March be set apart for special supplication to the Ruler of nations for the guidance of his Holy Spirit over the incoming administration of the government of our country, cordially approves of said suggestion, and recommends the assembling of the people in the churches on that evening, to pray for such Divine blessing upon our chief magistrate as will insure to the nation a righteous, prosperous and peaceful administration."

"Resolved, That the above resolution be communicated to other ministerial associations of this city, and that it be respectfully proposed to them to concur in the recommendation."

On the same day the Ministers' Meeting of the O. S. Church, and the Preachers' Meeting of the M. E. Church, gave their hearty concurrence to the proposition. Other denominations will doubtless give it their sanction at the first opportunity.

A RIJOUX ECCLÉSIASTICAL ASSEMBLAGE. —The English "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts" is the oldest Missionary Society in the Protestant Church, and is made up of churchmen of all parties. At a meeting held some months ago, while all the Evangelical clergy were attending another meeting, it was voted that the £2,000 usually granted to the diocese of Natal (Bp. Colenso's) be distributed by the High Church Bishop of Cape-town, &c., for the benefit of the new illegal Bishop of Macrorie. Counsel decided this arrangement to be illegal, and another meeting was held, which proved to be of a character that begged description. The Archbishop of York presided. As time progressed, the confusion continued to increase, and it was said that a fight was going on in one part of the room, but it was impossible to see whether it was so or not. The High Church amendment to a resolution providing that the grant be disbursed by the officers of the Society, was defeated by the Low and Broad Church men by a vote of 765 to 674, mostly clergymen. The platform, invaded by excited men from the floor, became a perfect Babel. One or two speakers, after contriving to say that the real question decided upon was the claims of Bishop Colenso, were shouted and hooted down, until, by and by, some hundreds of persons joined in an unceasing stamping. Eventually, the original motion (the standing committee's) was put, and declared to be carried by an overwhelming majority. Just as the disturbance was breaking out afresh, the Archbishop interposed with the benediction, and the assembly dispersed. All this riot came from the violence and ungoverned temper of the ritualistic party.

News of Our Churches.

Church Causes.

Twenty-nine appointments by the Committee of Home Missions are announced in the Monthly for February. For Home Missions there were received \$15,050, and for the Freedmen \$1,837.75 in December.

The receipts for Church Election in December were \$2,719.17. For Publication, in November and December, the receipts were \$2,100.59. For Education the receipts in December were \$1,105.85. The Presbyterian Rooms in New York are removed from 150 Nassau St. to 80 Vesey St.

The Treasury of our Church Election Board is exhausted. Thirty churches have been aided since last May, and many are waiting an answer to their applications.

Ministerial.

Rev. Wm. Aikman, recently pastor of the Hanover St. church, Wilmington, Del., has received a call to the Spring St. church of his native city, New York, which has been so recently left vacant by the removal of its young and successful pastor, Rev. S. R. Wilson, to a new field of labor. The Evangelist says: "We trust Mr. Aikman will not only see his way clear to accept the call, but to regard it as a permanency. His brethren of the church very well know that he has talent and culture enough to preach quite at the other end of the island, or anywhere in the centre of it, where well-to-do Presbyterians who seek material as well as spiritual good, most do congregate, and he certainly will grow in their esteem as well as that of all good men, by becoming the faithful under-shepherd of this honored church. He will find the field in many respects a very inviting one. The old church was never more useful than at this moment. Indeed, there is nothing about it that can be called old, save the edifice itself, and that is as solid and substantial, and withal neater and better furnished than ever before. A young, earnest, and intelligent congregation meets within its walls, and the work of the Lord prospers under all exigencies. During the past few weeks, and while deprived of a pastor, conversions have taken place, and at the communion last Sabbath, Jan. 24th, nine were received on profession of their faith, and four by letter. No where in the whole city perhaps can one who loves souls find a parish of greater attractions."

Rev. N. S. S. Beman writes to The Evangelist: "The Tenth Article should go by the board, if we have the Standards pure, without note or comment. The Presbyterian has a peculiarity of vision: he is not blind even of one eye, but sees only with one eye at a time. Please to follow him up, and make him see wisely and correctly."

Rev. T. M. Sparks.—While many pastors are telling your readers of the kind remembrances of their people in the way of slippers, dressing gowns, books for their libraries, and other things which affection suggests for the comfort of their spiritual guides, let me tell you of a little matter of this sort which happened to our dear good Bro. Sparks of Minersville, Pa. A few weeks ago, after a temporary absence, most unexpectedly, he found that somebody had entered his sanctum and left there a very elegant and expensive chair or lounge. This he afterwards learned was the affectionate present of a number of the ladies of the Minersville church. To one so often depressed—so truly modest, and good—so devoted to his work, and having in so many hearts the evidence of his devotedness to his Master's work, and his eminent fitness for it, such a token of affection is most appropriate. J. S. T.

Rev. James A. Darrah has been pastor of our church in West Ely, Mo., since 1857. In the previous twenty-three years, this church had nine pastors. These, Dr. Norton writes to The Christian Herald, "were freedom-loving men, or were suspected of being so, and were driven away by those who loved slavery. The tenth had diplomacy, courage and grace enough to hold his ground for three years. Then the war came, and a great fight of afflictions began. Rebels tried to frighten him. But he 'wouldn't scare worth a cent.' Once they ordered him to leave and cross the river before sun-down. He replied that he would not go; and said further that if they molested him not a rebel should be left on that prairie. They let him alone. Once his house was robbed, but a Union captain tracked the robbers, shot them, and recovered the plunder. Part of it was Mrs. D's gold watch. This was found in a hog-pen. But after Mr. Neil shot that dozen of rebels in Palmyra 'quiet reigned in Warsaw.'"

Churches.

Revival.—The church in West Point, Ind., has been visited by an awakening from on high, and has had an accession of twenty new members within a month, fourteen being heads of families, five of them young husbands.—The church in Zionsville, Ind., has enjoyed an outpouring of the Spirit while waiting on the Lord in the Week of Prayer. Nineteen have been added, fifteen on profession. Less than a year ago the church had only four members, but it now numbers thirty-nine, and has a good house of worship free from debt.—In Marietta College quite a number of students have been converted in connection with a series of meetings in Harmar church, and in the Congregationalist church of Marietta.—The church of Amboy, N. Y., is enjoying a delightful refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Not less than sixty souls have found the pearl of great price, and many others are earnest inquirers.—There have been eight or ten hopeful conversions in Mt. Zion church at Cave Spring, Mo. Six have already united with it on examination.—The church of Waverly, N. Y., received twelve members on the last communion season, and the pastor has received a beautiful edition of Ruskin's entire works, as a token from his congregation.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Dr. Cuyler's church, in Brooklyn, received 47 members Jan. 17th. Among them was a Quaker, commended in a beautiful letter by the monthly meeting of the Society of Orthodox Friends. Dr. Cuyler read the letter from the pulpit, and expressed the cordial and brotherly love of himself and his church for "the Orthodox Friends, that body of Christian brethren who had given to the Church and to the world such noble men as Joseph G. Furness, William Allen, Stephen Grellet, and John Bright."