

Religious Intelligence.

THE REFORMED CHURCHES.

City.—The Second [Dutch] Reformed church has called the Rev. Dr. A. R. Thompson, of New York, in place of Rev. T. Dewitt Talmadge. March 29th, Rev. Alexander Calhoun was installed pastor of the Fifth U. P. church in this city.—The Second O. S. church (Rev. Mr. Beadle's) now worshipping in Whitefield chapel on W. Walnut street, are blessed with a religious awakening.—Nineteen persons were added to the Arch street Church, Philadelphia, on Sabbath two weeks, eleven by profession of faith, and eight by certificate.—There is a deep interest in the Kensington church, (Rev. W. O. Johnstone's) having its beginning in the accidental burning to death of a young lady of the congregation.—The Legislature has passed the bill to enable the Scots' church (Third and Spruce) to sell their church property.—The Court of Common Pleas has granted an injunction on the prayer of Wm. Matthews of New York, forbidding the Treasurer of the R. P. Theological Seminary (Jas. Martin, Esq.) to transfer the funds of the institution to the custody of the citizen of the State of New York whom the Trustees had elected Treasurer. This last gentleman is the James Semple who moved the first regulation in General Synod last May for the suspension of Geo. H. Stuart. The further steps of this suit will decide whether the Trustees have not so wasted and misapplied the funds as to have broken the terms on which they were given, and thereby forfeited them.

Ministerial.—Rev. Dr. Schaff expects to spend the summer in Europe. He is most laboriously prosecuting his labors on Lange's Commentary.—Rev. N. L. Rice, D.D., has received a unanimous call from the South church of Chicago, with the offer of a liberal salary. The Northwestern Presbyterian says: "Dr. Rice's health, which has greatly improved while in New York, is understood to be quite restored, so that he preaches with his former wonted vigor. Should Dr. Rice see the way clear to accept the call proffered him, he will do much towards elevating the standard of preaching, and increasing in the midst of a restless community the highest and best type of pulpit instruction."—Rev. M. A. Rowland, a minister in the Methodist church, but early trained in the Heidelberg Catechism, has joined the German Reformed Church. The Classis of Philadelphia recently ordained him pastor of the Church in Vincent, Pa.—Rev. B. H. Witherow has accepted a call to the church at Columbia, Pa.—Rev. R. J. Breckinridge, D.D., is quite ill at his residence in Danville, Ky., and doubts are entertained of his recovery.—Rev. Jonathan Edwards, D.D., President of Washington College, Canonsburg, Pa., has been called to the pastorate of the Second Presbyterian church, Baltimore.

Revolutions.—The Clermont Avenue Reformed church of Brooklyn, had an accession of twenty-three, thirteen on profession, Sabbath before last. A religious interest pervades the congregation.—The O. S. church of Hillsboro, O., has received fifty-two on profession.—The church of Elizabeth, Ind., has received seventy-eight on profession, seventy of them by baptism. Eleven were grandparents and thirty-three parents.—Twenty-three have been added to the Second church of Vincennes, Ind.—The church at East Hampton, two centuries old, has had a gracious revival which has brought in seventy on their profession of faith, thirty-six by baptism.—Fifty-four have just been received into the First church of Bridgeton, N. J., (Rev. Mr. Gregory's) where the revival has lasted for several months.—In the church of Paris, Ky., as the result of special meetings for ten days, eighteen persons were converted, all but four being young men.—There are indications of religious interest in several of the churches in Cincinnati, and small accessions are reported.

Churches.—Rev. J. J. Powell, home missionary at Lockford, California, says the *Intelligencer*, describes the process by which he and his congregation have obtained a home of worship, fifty feet by thirty-two. Instead of doing as many weak churches do, who run down to San Francisco and spend weeks in begging for a little help, they resolved to help themselves. Carpenters' wages were very high, and men hard to be obtained, and so the missionary "pitched in" with saw and plane, and rule, and line, and hammer, and paint-brush, and after four months' hard work got the building all ready for plastering. All this time he never neglected his ministerial duties, preaching, holding Bible-class and prayer-meetings, regularly.—The new house of worship erected by the church of Franklin, Pa., was to be dedicated April 1. Rev. Cyrus Dickson, of Baltimore, Md., a former pastor of the church, was expected to take part in the exercises.

The Courts of Supreme Jurisdiction of the Reformed churches meet as follows:

The General Assemblies of the Presbyterian church meet in the city of New York, May 20, the Old School in the Brick church (Rev. John O. Murray pastor), and the New School in the church of the Covenant.

The General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian church meets at Mobile, May 20.

The General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian church meets at Murfreesboro', Tenn., May 20.

The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian church meets at Monmouth, Ill., May 25.

The General Synod of [Dutch] Reformed churches meets in Philadelphia, June 2d.

The General Synod of the German Reformed church meets in Philadelphia, Nov. 24.

The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian church meets at Carlisle, O., May 19.

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian church meets

Educational.—Theological Seminaries.—The Triennial Catalogue of the U. P. Theological Seminary of Allegheny City, (for the years 1865-1868) shows that the present number of students is 35. Since its opening in 1825, it has had nearly 500.—There are one hundred and twenty young men preparing for the ministry in Chicago. The O. S. Seminary has upwards of thirty students, with four professors. The Congregational Seminary has upwards of fifty students and a faculty of four professors, and the Baptist Seminary has about forty students and a faculty of four professors.

Colleges, &c.—The number of students in the college of New Jersey, at Princeton is 230, of whom 54 are in the senior class, 88 are juniors, 75 sophomores and 65 freshmen. New Jersey is represented by 93, Pennsylvania 58, New York 33, Maryland 21, North Carolina 10. Two are from India, two from Wales, and one each from China and Ireland.—From a journal recently issued of bequests and gratuities to Rutgers College, N. J., it appears that the original bequest of Dominie Van Benschoten, an ancient Dutch Reformed preacher in Sussex county, consisting of \$20,813, for the education of "ministers of the gospel of Christ," is sacredly respected—it still being known as the "Van Benschoten Fund," and to this day remains the largest private gratuity ever bequeathed to the College.—The schools at Santa Fe, New Mexico; Tusculum and Washington Colleges in East Tenn., and the German Seminary at Dubuque, Iowa, are all seeking needed aid from the O. S. Board of Education and other sources.—John J. Blair, of New Jersey, has erected a fine building at Blairstown for an institution of learning, to be conducted according to Presbyterian principles, and to be presented, when complete, with a boarding-house and an endowment, to the Presbytery of Newton,—

March 18th inst., the Chapel of Bellewood Female Seminary, near Louisville, Ky., Rev. W. W. Hill, Principal, was destroyed by fire.

The South.—Protestantism in New Orleans, says *The S. W. Presbyterian*, is about 50 years old, and the Presbyterians alone have six thriving churches.—Memphis, Tenn., contains four Presbyterian churches and a fifth one is about to be organized. One elder of the First has charge of a white and another of a colored Sunday-school—the latter numbering 200 pupils.—Rev. Henry M. Smith, D.D., has resigned the charge of the Third church in New Orleans, a pastoral relation which has existed for twelve years, with a view to devoting his whole time to the editorial department of *The Southwestern Presbyterian*, recently started in that city.—The Southern churches sent, during February, to the Committee of their General Assembly for Foreign Missions \$701 88; and for Mission schools in China, from Sabbath-schools, \$351 38.

Re-union.—The Presbyterian contends that a union is not desirable merely to build up a great and powerful Church, but "a union is wanted which will economize forces, prevent unseemly rivalries, concentrate the energies of the church, and augment its resources—a union in the blessed work of preaching the gospel of Christ to the world, and converting and sanctifying the nation."—Two weeks ago the Rev. W. L. Breckinridge, D.D. addressed a letter, in *The Presbyterian*, to Dr. Musgrave, inquiring whether he believes there is such an agreement in doctrine between the Old and New School Churches, as to justify re-union. Dr. Musgrave replies in the affirmative, in a very able letter published in *The Presbyterian*.—The *Presbyter* says: "Now, we don't believe that *The (Philadelphia) Presbyterian* wishes the New School 'to relinquish or deny the right to all reasonable liberty in the statement of views,' etc., nor do we believe that it is opposed to the liberty which the Joint Committee interpreted their language in the First Article as intended to secure. We may add, that if brethren of the Philadelphia 'Pastoral Association' are determined to take *The (Philadelphia) Presbyterian* as the exponent of the Old School, they would show more fairness to that paper if they would base their action upon a broader view of its opinions. That paper has written much to show that it is ready for re-union on fair, equal, and fraternal terms." We rejoice to hear it, but regret that all the copies of *The Presbyterian* which contained the liberal utterances aforesaid, must, in some way, have been mutilated before they reached this office. "We have never seen them, and would rather have Dr. Greer 'speak for himself.'"

Foreign Items.—Both the English and United Presbyterians are diligently seeking earnestly to carry out evangelistic work. One of the elders at a recent gathering, Mr. J. M. Matheson, proposed an overture to Synod that the ancient order of evangelists should be revived. It is not likely that this will be done.—In the far North of Scotland, not long ago, it is said, when a man wished to be married and could not repeat the Shorter Catechism, the Session required him to produce two "cautions" to the amount of twelve pounds, Scots, that he would acquire it within six months after his marriage.—Montone, Italy, on the Mediterranean between Nice and Genoa, has become much frequented by English and Scotch people during the winter. Last year there were nearly a thousand English-speaking people at the place. Two handsome Episcopal churches have been built and provided with clergymen, and last winter the Free Church of Scotland sent one of its ministers to labor there for five months. On the first occasion of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there were forty-seven communicants, and on the second about sixty. During the first four months the place of meeting was small and overcrowded; but after that a larger hall, vacated by the French Protestant congregation, was secured.—The Free Presbytery of Edinburgh had till recently a church in St. Heliers, one of the Channel Islands, but has transferred it to the English Presbytery of London. The latter body recently sent a Commission to ordain Rev. J. J. Muir to the pastorate, in pursuance of a call made out by a majority of the congregation. Two elders and two deacons who denied the legality of the transfer and therefore of the call locked the doors of the church. When these were opened and the services proceeded with, towards the close one of the four entered and kneeling in the aisle cried out, *Haro, Haro, a l'aide, mon prince! On me fait tort!* a form called in old Norman law the clamour *de Haro*, and giving notice of an appeal against forcible invasion of rights.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

Episcopalian.—In the celebration of Good Friday at the ritualistic chapel of St. Alban's, the leading features were the "three hours agony" commencing at 12 o'clock P. M., together with what the ecclesiologists call "the approaches" and the "pro-anaphoral service." The sermon was preached by Rev. Father Morrill. At Trinity the chancel was draped in black.—Rev. Morgan Dix, D.D., of New York in a recent lecture said that the last 300 years are "The real dark ages of the Church"—that in setting forth "private judgment of the Bible as a fundamental doctrine of the Reformation," Martin Luther laid the foundation for "all the errors and infidel and rationalistic doctrines of the present day"—and that, "as for Protestantism considered as a system, its power is broken, its epitaph is written, and its grave is dug."—St. Clement's church of this city has called a rich rector on a salary of \$1,000 a year, and is going to devote the rest of its resources to the work of making the church a model of ritualistic taste and novelty. It is to take the lead of St. Marks, and to be the St. Alban's of Philadelphia.—Rev. O. W. Whitaker has accepted the missionary bishopric of Arizona and Nevada, to which he was elected last fall by the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies of the Episcopal Church.—Bishop Payne, who has been connected with the mission at Cape Palmas on the coast of Africa, more than thirty years, "is very feeble. Mr. Auer says the Bishop is dying, as others have died, from being overworked. He feels that he himself cannot continue unless white co-laborers be soon sent; and under this impression, deems it his duty to withdraw, should they be refused or long delayed, rather than fall a useless sacrifice."—Rev. Dr. F. D. Huntington, in preaching his farewell sermon, March 21st, said that during his ministrations in Emmanuel church, Boston, baptism has been administered to 358 infants and to 111 adults; 355 persons have received the rite of confirmation. The parish has given for charitable and kindred purposes, since its organization in 1860, \$151,715.12.—Certain Protestant Episcopalians in the Diocese of Illinois have published a protest against what they assert to be the Romancing tendencies of Bishop Whitehouse and other of his school.—Bishop Littlejohn, of the Diocese of Long Island, has signalled his entrance upon his bishopric by a public protest against the whole system of paid singers, quartette choirs, and the operatic performances which are given by these hired performers, he says: "The work for which they are now paid ought to be done by the people of God, themselves. Those who cultivate their talents for music for the benefit of their own homes, ought to consecrate the culture so obtained to God's service on the Sabbath."—Rev. John Wright has resigned the Rectorship of the new organization of the Church of the Reconciliation. It is understood that he has received a call to a Church in the Northwest. At present he is not well, and will not go to Michigan at once. The Church of the Reconciliation is at present in charge of a Presbyterian Clergyman, who has applied for ordination and who has been admitted as a candidate.

Foreign.—"Keynote," writes to *The Examiner and Chronicle* an extended account of "Father Ignatius,"

Rev. Mr. Lyne, who is laboring to establish monery in the Church of England. He invites any who may wish, to pray in his meetings, and praises "dear old sainted John Wesley." "He preaches repentance, regeneration, faith in Christ, holy living and self-sacrifice with much pungency and directness, and bearing an occasional phrase, his sermons to the impenitent do not differ materially from those of the common run of preachers." [Mr. Lyne when younger, once preached all over Scotland with no small measure of acceptance, though clad in his Benedictine robe. Only in one place was he stopped from holding forth, and that was by a Free Church minister who closed the only public hall in one town against him, because he had said that "Christ died for all men."] Fifty-six living in the Church of England are in the gift of Roman Catholic peers, and many more in the gift of Romanist commoners. Patrons of that faith are disabled from presenting. But it seems that a few patrons is at liberty to do so. Baron de Rothschild has presented a clergyman to the vicarage of Mentmore.—The dignities and parsons of the Established Church in Wales have very seldom been able to preach in the Welsh language. The real religious instruction of the people has been done by dissenters. At the late meeting of Convocation there came petitions from gentlemen and magistrates in Wales for bishops who can preach in Welsh; for appropriation of some of the Welsh ecclesiastical revenues to training their clergy to practical work; for the people to have a voice in the appointment of their ministers, cathedral reform, service reform and free seats.

Congregationalist.—Rev. Swan L. Pomeroy, formerly of Portland, Maine, and for a time one of the secretaries of the American Board, died suddenly at the house of his brother, in Sunderland, Mass. He was seventy years old.—Rev. Aldace Walker, D.D., was installed, the 9th ult., pastor of a Congregational church in Wallingford, Vt., which during the last forty years, has been ministered to by stated supplies.—The Berkeley Street church, Boston, has abolished its quartette for a voluntary choir with congregational singing.—The formation of a "Congregational Club" in Boston is announced.—The Congregational and Methodist churches in East Longmeadow, Mass., have formed a union for one year—the service to be held in the edifice of the former, and a Methodist to be the preacher.—Ninety-one colored people live in Amherst, Mass., and a chapel for them costing \$900 was dedicated there, March 12th, President Stearns preaching the sermon.—Rev. Moses Smith, lately of the church at Plainville, Conn., has accepted a call from the Leavitt St. Church in Chicago. He began his labors there on the first of April.—The Ministerial Union of Elmira, N. Y., at a recent meeting, passed resolutions disapproving the teachings of Rev. T. K. Beecher, declining to co-operate with him in his Sunday evening services at the Opera House, and requesting him to withdraw from their Monday morning meeting. This has resulted in his withdrawal.—Of the forty-four churches of California, but nine gave last year to the American Board. The amount, however, (\$5,046.38) was greater than ever before. From five Presbyterian churches, and from individuals on the Pacific coast, \$744 are credited to the same Board.

Baptist.—The total number of students (not including law and medical) now studying in twenty-three principal institutions, is 2,556. Of these 1,369 are professors of religion; and 761 are studying for the ministry. The number of students in Baptist theological seminaries is 212.—It is announced that in a Philadelphia Church the baptismal dress of black has been discarded, and one of pure white substituted. The color came out probably.—A special "Theological Institute," for the instruction of colored Baptist preachers, has been held this winter at Jacksonville, Florida, under direction of Dr. Parker, of Boston; the object being to give instruction on Biblical and other subjects, to make them better fitted for their work.—The marriage of two Burmese was celebrated, March 12th, in the First church of Chicago by a returned Missionary. They go out as missionaries.—In London, the increase of Baptist congregations within fifteen years has been twice that of the Congregationalists, and three times that of the Wesleyans, chiefly through influences growing out of Mr. Spurgeon's church, which maintains "open communion."

The Church of the Brethren.—This denomination, sometimes known by the name of the German Baptists and "Dunkards," is popularly supposed to be found only in the recesses of Pennsylvania. But *The Christian Family Companion*, the weekly organ of the denomination, published at Tyrone, Blair county, Pa., gives notices of Church Assemblies, meeting in Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. The doctrines of the Church of the Brethren, are summed up as follows:—The Church teaches that the New Testament is the Will of God, and that no one can have the promise of salvation without observing all its requirements; that among these are Faith, Repentance, Prayer, Baptism by Trine immersion, Feet Washing, the Lord's Supper, the Holy Communion, Charity, Non-conformity to the world, and a full resignation to the whole will of God as he has revealed it through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Methodist.—The African M. E. Church (says the *Christian Recorder*) has full 200,000 members, owns property to the value of \$5,000,000, and "stands ready to join the Methodist Episcopal Church on terms of perfect equality—bishop for bishop, elder for elder, and deacon for deacon." This Church has twenty-eight members in the South Carolina House of Representatives and one in the Senate; in North Carolina, one in the House and two in the Senate; in Florida, thirteen in the House and five in the Senate. The majority of the expelled representatives in Georgia were of the same Church.—Twenty colored presiding elders hold office in the M. E. Church—a result of the organization of colored conferences.—The report of the New Jersey Conference, shows an increase during the year of 11 churches; that of Baltimore an increase of 112 churches.—By a remarkable revival of religion in Carbondale, Illinois, during the last eight weeks, over two hundred persons have been received into the church of that place on probation, General John A. Logan among the number. Over two hundred and forty have joined the church in Whitesburg, Pa., charge.—A colored man in Whitesville, Ga., who had never spoken, was happily converted to God under the labors of Methodist ministers, and commenced at once to praise God aloud, and from that time began to speak. *Now his utterance is so distinct that he holds prayer-meetings through the country with marked interest.*—The Lay Representative party are holding mass meetings to make public opinion before the vote of June next.—In Casco, Mich., March 16th inst., three daughters, all the children of Rev. L. and Mrs. S. E. Bathric, aged four, six and eight years, were burned to death.—The Boston Wesleyan Association have made arrangements for the purchase of the Bromfield House, for about \$160,000, and intend to replace that edifice by a large and handsome structure, which shall become the headquarters of the Methodists in this city. This Association is a corporate body, and publishes *Zion's Herald*.—The Clarke Street M. E. Church, corner of Washington street, Chicago, is a business block on a corner. The lower and second stories are rented for business uses. The third and fourth stories are used for church purposes. The rental of the former for this year is \$92,000. This will soon be the only church left in the very heart of

the most densely peopled square mile of Chicago; and it has only been saved by the protection of the rental of the business part.—Rev. John P. Newman, D.D., editor of *The New Orleans Advocate*, who was chosen Chaplain of the United States Senate, March 8th, is also pastor of the new Metropolitan church, Washington city.—The roof of the Methodist church at Norway, Maine, fell in on Sunday afternoon, 7th inst., on account of the weight of snow which had accumulated upon it. A short time previous to the accident a meeting had been dismissed.

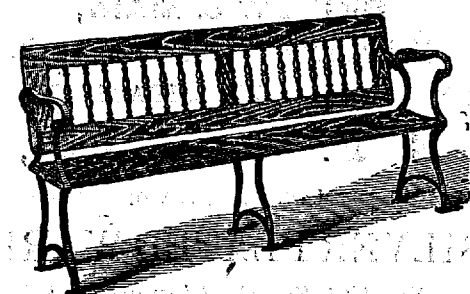
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