Resignation of the Rev. Albert Barnes, Paster of the First Presbyterian Church
—A Sketch of his Ministerial Career— Whe Memorable Persecution which he Endured and Triumphed Over.

The announcement recently made that the Rev. Albert Barnes has been compelled, by the increasing infirmities of age, to tender to his congregation a resignation of the post which he has held for thirty-seven years, has been received with the deepest regret by all who are familiar with the goodness of his heart, the true nobility of his character, and the great usefulness of his long and laborious career as a Christian minister. He has stood up manfully under the weight of years, clinging to his chosen work with a touching fondness, and only retires from the active labors of the pulpit, at the age of sixty-nine, by the express command of his physicians. During the period of his long pastorate over the First Presbyterian Church of this city. he has accomplished so much for the benefit of his fellow-men and the glory of his Master, that we can pronounce no better or more fitting enlogy upon the labors of his well-spent life than by presenting a brief sketch of his career. Albert Barnes was born in the town of Rome,

New York, on the 1st of December, 1798. His father pursued the calling of a tanner, and in this laborious occupation he was himself engaged until he had attained the age of seventeen. A year later he entered Hamilton College, New York, and graduated from that institution with the class of 1820, at the age of twenty-two. Concerning his inner life at this period, he has said:-

"I began life a skeptic in religion, and I early fortified and poisoned my mind by reading all the books to which I could find access, that were adapted to foster and sustain my native skepti-cism. Up to the age of nineteen, though out-wardly moral, and though, in the main, respect-ful in my treatment of religion, I had no belief in the Bible as a revelation from God, nor was I willing to be convinced that it is such a revela-Circumstances which related rather to the choice of a profession than to any question about the truth of religion, led me to some re-flection on the general subject of the future and to the course which I should pursue in the world. I should have shrunk at that time from its being understood that I read the Bible, and I should equally have avoided any book that would be understood by my associates to suggest the thought that I was a serious inquirer in regard to my salvation. Among them, however, I was not ashamed to be seen reading a book which was in all our hands-the 'Edinburgh Encyclopædia,' then in the course of publication. One of the numbers of that work had an article by Dr. Chalmers, entitled 'Christianity.' I read it. The argument to me was new. It fixed my attention. It commanded my assent. It convinced me intellectually. my assent. It convinced me, intellectually, of

"But," he continues, "with this intellectual conviction I paused. I formed a purpose on the subject of religion which I then intended should regulate my ruture course in this world. It was to lead henceforth a strictly moral life; to say nothing against religion; not to be found on any occasion among its opposers; but to yield to its claims no farther. I resolved to frame my life, in this respect, on what I understood to be the character and views of Dr. Franklin,"

A year later a religious revival-commenced in the College, and Mr. Barnes was tirmly resolved upon maintaining the resolution expressed bove. But in this endeavor he was providentially frustrated, in the following manner:classmate, recently converted, stated to me in simple words, and with no appeal to me

personally, his own feelings on the subject of religion, described the change which had occurred in his mind, and left me. His words went to my heart; led me to reflect on my condition, and were the means, under God, of that great change which has so materially affected all my plans in this life, and which I anticipate and hope will affect my condition lorever.

This changed the whole current of his life, and in November, 1820, he commenced the study and in November, 1820, he commenced the study of theology at Princeton; was licensed to preach in April, 1824; and was ordained and instalted as pastor of the Presbyterian church at Morristown, N. J., in February, 1825. Referring to the early portion of his career, he has said:—'1 began life with no wealth and with no patronage from powerful friends. I was blessed with virtuous and industrious parents, and entered on my course with the advantage which was to be derived from their counsels and example. I and in Novem be derived from their counsels and example. I was dependent on my own efforts. I claim no special credit for this, or sympathy on account of it, for this is the way in which most men begin the world."

He remained at Morristown for five years, signalizing the close of his pastorate, in the spring of 1830, by the delivery and publication of a sermon on "The Way of Salvation," which at once drew to him the attention of the whole Presbyterian denomination. The Church was just entering upon that memorable struggle which ultimately rent it assunder, and this ser-mon on "The Way of Salvation" was made the basis for an ecclesiastical persecution of its author, which was conducted with great carnestness for six years, until its object obtained a complete triumph over all his adversaries.

complete triumph over all his adversaries.

He was called to the First Church of this city in 1830, as the colleague of the Rev. Dr. J. P. Wilson, with the hearty concurrence of the latter, there being but one vote adverse to his settlement in fifty-four which were cast upon the question. Having signified his acceptance, the congregation, according to the custom of the Church, asked leave of the Presbytery of Philadelphia to prosecute the call. The motion to grant leave raised a stormy discussion, which was prolonged through four days, several promiwas prolonged through four days, several promi-nent members of the Presbytery declaring that Mr. Barnes' sermon on "The Way of Salvation" contained fundamental errors in doctrine, and asserting their unwillingness to countenance any innovation by his reception. Leave to prosecute his call was finally granted, by a vote of 21 to 12, it being understood that, as soon as Mr. Barnes was received into the Presbytery ho should be placed upon trial for heresy; and on the 18th of June, 1830, he presented his certaicate of dismissal and recommendation from the Presbytery of Elizabethmendation from the Presbylery of Edizaceth-town. A fierce opposition was again arrayed against his reception; but it finally prevailed by a vote of thirty to sixteen. An attempt was then made to arrest his formal installation, by the presentation against him of charges of un-soundness in doctrine; and in November, 1830, by express command of the Synod, these charges were heard by the Presbylery, but in a manner which according to the claim of Mr. manner which, according to the claim of Mr. Barnes and his friends, was entirely unconsti-Barnes and his friends, was entirely unconstitutional. The matter was finally taken before the General Assembly of 1831, which decided that there was "a number of unguarded and objectionable passages" in Mr. Barnes' sermon; but ordered the Presbytery to suspend further proceedings in the case, and recommended such a division of that body as would promote peace and harmony in the Church. This compromise was stoutly opposed by the adversaries of Mr. Barnes, and the recommendation of the Assembly was not fully and satisfactorily carried out bly was not fully and satisfactorily carried out

until the year 1836. Mr. Barnes meanwhile entered upon the discharge of his new pastoral duties, with many misgivings, by reason of his youth and inexpe-rience. In a sermon on "Life at Three-score," preached on the 28th of November, 1858, he

says:"I came here a young man, with but little ex-"I came here a young man, with but little experience, with no personal acquaintance with the manners and habits of a great city, and with no such reputation as to make success certain. I had never preached before the congregation, when I was called to be its paster. I came at that early period of life, and with that want of experience, to succeed the most learned, able, and eloquent preacher in the Presbyterian Church; a man occupating a position in this when I was called to be its paster. I came at that early period of life, and with that want of experience, to succeed the most learned, able, and eloquent preacher in the Presbyterian Church; a man occupying a position in this community which no other man occupied; a man who had ministered here more than twenty years; a man whose opinions secured a degree pation of the observer in favor of distributing

of respect which few men have ever been able to secure; a man beloved and venerated by the congregation to which he had so long ministered. I came to take charge of one of the largest and most influential congregations in the land. I came when I was fully apprised that I must encounter from without a most decided and formidable opposition to the views which I had cherished, and to the doctrines which I had expressed. I found my venrable predecessor already, by anticipation, my friend. He driended my views. He indorsed my opinions. He exerted his great influence, in the congregation in my favor, commending me, in every way, by his pen and his counsel, to the confidence and affection of the people to whom he had so long ministered. For sex months, the time during ministered. For six months, the time during which he lived after I became the pastor of the church, he was my friend, my counsellor, my adviser, my example; he did all that could be done by man to make my ministry here useful and happy,"
But Mr. Barnes' difficulties with those who

were opposed to his peculiar doctrinal views did not end with his successful installation. While the subject of this sketch has been widely and favorably known as an earnest and efficient pastor, and as a clear and impressive pulpit orator, his fame throughout this and other lands has been chiefly owing to his able commentaries on different portions of the Scriptures. In his sermon on "Life at Three-score," he thus refers to the origin and composition of these remarkably successful works:—
"My attention was first directed to the subject

by what seemed to me to be a want in Sabbath Schools, the want of a plain and simple commentary on the Gospels, which could be put into the hands of teachers, and which would furnish an easy explanation of the meaning of the sacred writers. I began the work, and prepared brief notes on a portion of the Gospel of Matthew, when I incidentally learned that the Rev. James W. Alexander, D. D., was engaged in preparing a similar work. Not deeming it de-sirable that two books of the same kind should be prepared, I wrote to him on the sub-ject. He replied that he had been employed by the American Sunday School Union to prepare such a work; that he had made about the same amount of manuscript preparation which I had done; that he regarded t as undesirable that two works of the same character should be issued; that his health was delicate, and that he would gladly relinquish the undertaking. He abandoned it, as I have always ielt, with a generous spirit. I have prosecuted the work until a result has been reached which I by no means contemplated at the outset. All my commentaries on the Scriptures have been written before 9 o'clock in the morning. At the very beginning, now more than thirty years ago, I adopted a resolution to stop writing on these notes when the clock struck nine. This resolution I have invariably adhered to, not un-frequently finishing my morning task in the midst of a paragraph, and sometimes even in the midst of a sentence."

In consequence of the arduous duties thus

voluntarily assumed, in addition to the pressing labors of his pastorate, and the fact that they were accomplished mainly in the hours which are devoted by other men to repose, Mr. Barnes entailed great physical suffering upon himself, and came near losing the use of his eyes. But he reaped a rich and unserfice accipated reward for term ave attained such a wide-spread popularity and circulation among all denominations of Christian and in all came.

Christians and in all countries. They have been translated into several foreign languages, and ten years ago his "Notes on the New Testament alone had attained a circulation in this countr of nearly half a million volumes, while a still larger number had at that time been printed abroad. In the sermon from which we have already quoted, Mr. Barnes thus refers to his responsibility for the success which has attended

his literary efforts:-"I cannot now recall those books. I cannot control any impression which they may make. It affects me also deeply to reflect that the sentiments in those books are most likely to come in contact with minds through which they will exert an influence when I am deadthe minds of the young. And yet I would not recall them if I could. With all my conscious ness of their imperiection, and with my firm expectation that some man will yet prepare commentary on the New Testament far better fitted to accomplish the end which I have sought than my own writings are, and with the feeling that, at my time of life, I caunot hope to revise them, and to make them conformable to what I would desire them to be, I still believe that they contain the system of eternal truth; that they defend what is right; that their influence will be to illustrate, in some measure, a great system of doctrines, watch is closely connected with the salvation of menand that, with all their imperfections, they give uiterance to just sentiments on the nature of true piety and the duties of practical religion."

The work of preparing these commentaries was commenced by Mr. Barnes soon after his settlement in this city. The "Notes on the Gospel of Matthew" were issued in 1832, and in 1835 the volume on the Epistles to the Romans was completed and published. Some of the doctrinal views expressed in the latter were regarded as especially objectionable by those who had previously been alarmed at the spread of innovations in the Church. The venerable Dr. Junkin, at that time President of Latayette College, and now an emeritus professor in the same Junkin, at that time President of Latayette Col-lege, and now an emeritus professor in the same institution, became the accuser of Mr. Barnes, although he was at the time a member of another Presbytery, and not even connected with the same Synod. Dr. Junkin made formal charges against Mr. Barnes, in which he studiously avoided the use of the objectionable word heresy, as ambiguous and calculated to prejudice him in public opinion. In these accu-sations Mr. Barnes was charged with holding that sin consists in voluntary action; that Adam, both before and after the fall, was ignorant of both before and after the fall, was ignorant of the fact that the consequences of his sin'would extend beyond a natural death; that unregenerate men are enabled to keep the command-ments and convert themselves to God; and that faith is an act of the mind, and not a principle, and is itself imputed for righteousness. The charges of Dr. Junkin also maintained that the author had denied the covenant with Adam, and the imputation of Adam's sin to his posand the imputation of Adam's sin to his pos-terity; that mankind are liable to punishment by reason of Adam's transgression: that Christ suffered the proper pensity of the faw as the vicarious substitute of His people, and thus legally took away their sins and purchased pardou; the imputation of Christ's active right-eousness; and that justification was other than simple pardon.

The Presbytery gave a patient hearing to the case, which resulted in the justification of Mr. Barnes. The Presbytery pronounced the evidence submitted in support of the charges to be mere 'inferences drawn from Mr. Barnes' language," which were not legitimate, and which, even if they were legitimate, could not be used to convict of heresy or dangerous error, according to a decision of the Assembly of 1824. Mr Baines was therefore triumphantly acquitted of having promulgated "any dangerous errors or heresies, contrary to the word of God and the

standards" of the Church.
This decision was unsatisfactory to Dr. Junkin, and the latter appealed from the Presby-tery to the Synod. The Presbytery refused to give up to the Synod its record of the trial, and Mr. Barnes put in a plea to the jurisdiction of the latter body, declining to stand his trial before it. The Synod thereupon decided that the Presbytery had acted disorderly in this re-tural and merited a censure. Dr. Junkin was fusal, and merited a censure. Dr. Junkin was then given a full hearing before the Synod, and as Mr. Barnes refused to appear and argue ass cause, he was convicted of holding fundamental errors, and by r vote of one hundred and sixteen to thirty-one, a motion to refer the whole matter to the General Assembly having been previously voted down, was "suspended from the exercise of all the functions proper to the gospel ministry" until such time as he should retract his errors and "give satisfactory evidence of repentance." Mr. Barnes acquiesced in the suspension, abandoning his pulpit for the time being, and gave notice of an appeal to the General Assembly.

An effort was then made by the adversaries of

the members of the Presbytery; but this was opposed on the ground that it would be "like spreading poison," and result in the contamination of the whole Synod. Still another advocated the exclusion of the Presbytery from the watch and care of the Synod, hoping thus effectually to free it from "wolves in sheep's clothing." The dissolution of the Presbytery was finally expected upon its members below was finally agreed upon, its members being ordered within six months to seek admission into other Presbyteries, falling in which they were drelared to be ipso facto cat off from the communion of the Presbyterian Church. The members of the Presbytery which it was members of the Presbytery which it was thus attempted to dissolve sppealed to the General Assembly of 1836, which met at Pittsburg. A week was devoted to hearing the appeals of the Presbytery and of Mr. Barnes, and both were sustained, the latter by a vote of one hundred and thirtyfour to ninety-six. His suspension from the exercise of his pastoral duties was reversed by a vote of one hundred and forty-five to seventy eight, and he again appeared in his pulpit, to the great rejoicing of his people, having triumphantly sustained and finally overcome a persecution for his religious views which lasted through six years. "During these six years of conflict," says Mr. Barnes, "notwithstanding all the efforts made from without to crush a young man, and to divide the congregation, it never swerved or hesitated. None were drawn away; none among us attempted to make a division. In every new phase of the now almost forgotten struggle before the Presbytery, the Synod, and the Church at large, the entire congregation stood by me until the great result was reached which gave us peace."

Such a persecution and such a triumph would have made a hero of any man, and, although the events connected with them have passed from the memory of many then living, and transpired before the day of a great portion of the present generation, they contributed in no small measure to the fame which their central object has achieved. For thirty years past, Mr. Barnes' life has been unsignalized by such stormy scenes as marked his early career in this city, but during all that time he has been a faithful and laborious pastor, belowed by all who have enjoyed the rare privilege of sitting under his teachings, and admired by the world at large who are familiar with him only through his printed words. We do not believe that there has ever been in the Christian pulpit a man whose life has displayed more true nobility, whose labors have resulted in greater good to his follow, man, whose players have been recommended. fellow-men, whose influence has been more earnestly and effectually exerted on the side of truth in all its forms and phases. For he has not restricted his indomitable energies and his varied scholarly acquirements to any one field of labor; but has been found as zealous and as efficient in the advocacy of temperance, of justice to the oppressed, and of maintaining by the strong right arm of the nation those political principles which were bequeathed to us by our forefathers, as in the mere discharge of his duties as pastor of a single church. Now that he has been compelled to withdraw from the active sphere of life in which he has so long been prominent, the thoughts of thousands will follow nim to his retirement, with the prayer that ne may yet be spared for many, many years.

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FIFTH EDITION

DISASTER.

A Terrible Boiler Explosion in New York.

Several Persons Killed and Many Wounded.

mte., Ste., Ste., Ste., Ste., Ste.

NEW YORK, Oct. 18-2:45 P. M .- A tecrible boiler explosion has just occurred at pier 45 North river. Several persons are reported to be killed and scalded.

(LATER.] Two men were killed and five wounded. The house containing the boiler was demolished, and the boiler itself was carried into the

THE OFFICIAL VOTE.

A Mistake in the Count.

OFFICIAL MAJORITY, 922.

(Special to The Evenino Triegraph by Hasson's Independent News Agency.) HARRIBBURG, Oct. 18 .- The correct official majority for Sharswood is 922, an error in the vote of McKean county of 280 having just been

FROM WASHINGTON THIS P. M. [SPECIAL DESPATCHES TO EVENING TELEGRAPH.]

The New York Whisky Men and Secre-The Mest extraordinary efforts are being made by the whisky interest in New York to effect the abolishment of the Metropoliton Revenue Board in that city. The parties interested have had a powerful lobby here all the week, and to day they were reinforced by numerous others. At one of the fashionable hotels more than half the arrivals to-day are from New York city, and the rings are determined to smash the Board if numbers will accomplish it. Finding Secretary McCulloch firm in his determination not to abolish the Board, they have commenced a war on him, and threaten to have him removed if he don't accede to their demands.

This is the explanation of the report which prevailed yesterday and to day that McCulloch would go out on the last day of this month, and that Cisco, late Assistant Treasurer at New York, would snoceed him. The wish is father to the thought no doubt, for Cisco has been operating against McCulloch for a long time without success, and there is not much probability of his being successful now, for there is good authority for stating that there is no prospect of McCulloch being removed at present.

Promoted.

Promoted. P. A. Breen, the young soldier clerk who was ordered by the President to be dismissed from the Quartermaster's Department for offering a resolution at a radical meeting in Alexandria endorsing Stanton, Sheridan, and Sickles, is to be appointed to a better place on the Capitol Police force. Salary, \$1500 per annum.

Congressional Retrenchment Committee. The Retrenchment Committee continued their investigations at the Treasury Department this morning. Yesterday they were en-gaged in examining documentary evidence and subprensed numerous witnesses, most of whom were not in attendance, but were expected to-dey. Fenator Buckalew has not yet joined the

Sanitary. The weather has become very warm again, and to-day it is almost like midsummer. This excites fears that the yellow fever will not disappear from the South before the early part of November.

Our Philadelphia Visitors. The party of Philadelphia Democrats and conservatives, headed by John Hulme, have gone to Richmond, it is supposed to consult with their friends, and advise them to vote against a Convention at the election on Tuesday next. The dissensions among the Virginia Republicans are so bitter that it is feared the vote for a Convention will be defeated.

Libel Suit Against the "Intelligencer." A special correspondent says:—"Matthew Mc-Mahon, a New York and Brooklyn lawyer, has been here for some days in consultation with eminent legal counsel, preparatory to the commencement of legal proceedings as counsel of Mr. and Mrs. Dean against the proprietor of the National Intelligencer, of this city, for libel, Some months ago the Intelligencer published in its columns one of the most gross, abusive, and false articles ever conceived or uttered, charging Dean with being a vagrant, who had already beaten and deserted his wife."

From Canada.

Tononto, Oct. 18.—The Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto Giobe says he has special information confirming the statement regarding the Fenian arms at Potsdam, New York. The arms are those seized by the United States Government in 1866, but lately restored to the Fenian agents. About 4000 stand of arms have arrived at Potsdam and a lot of cavalry saddles. It is supposed the Fenians will take advantage of the elections which are to come off in New York, and attempt a raid when both political parties least desire to quarrel with them. The Government authorities of Canada are is full possession of information as to the movements, and necessary measures and premovements, and necessary measures and pre-cautions have been taken.

From Baltimore. BALTIMORE, Oct. 18 .- The corner stone of the new City Hall was laid to-day with Masonic rites,

the M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of . the State of Maryland officiating. Ship News. NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—Arrived, steamsnip Irene, from Sisal and Havana.

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