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RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The leading editorial of the *Christian Advocate* of this city entitled, "Great Themes in Pulpit," discusses this question with usual ability, in which the views of the Lutheran *Observer* on this theme, "The Pulpit," and Dr. J. W. Alexander's advice to young ministers, are embodied in the article. Its great length, and the want of space, will only permit a condensation of some leading thoughts. The article opens with a reference to the selection of proper texts, as for the most part the indicate to reflecting minds the kind and quality of preaching that may be expected. The choice of difficult, long and odd texts and such as are of doubtful import is to be avoided.

It affirms the prevailing vice of the American pulpit, at least in the great cities, is the substitution of æsthetical culture for living grace. The pulpits of such notables as Beecher, Melville, and Robertson, are hardly gospel powers; that is, especially gospel powers. These men are reformers, christian thinkers, upholders of truth and religion; but they are not preachers of such truth as a soul inquiring for the way of life would ask. Then follows a recommendation of certain themes on the great distinctive ideas of revealed religion. "Such are the ideas of God, Christ, man, creation, providence, redemption, sight, duty, love; pardon, regeneration, immortality; the father of God, the brotherhood of man. Such preaching is more than moralizing. It vitalizes and enriches the Gospel message. It spreads from the treasuries of God a bounteous repast for the hungry soul. Ministers more than competent for a deficiency of vigorous logic, rhetorical grace, and natural eloquence, by a happy selection as themes of discussion. Dr. Alexander urges young ministers to begin early to grapple with great subjects. An athlete gains might only by great exercise. So that a man does not overstrain his powers, the more he wrestles, the fatter, but he must wrestle, and not merely dream over it or play with it. The doctor says "some ministers preach twenty years, and yet never preach on the judgment, hell, the crucifixion, or on these great themes which in all ages affect children, and affect the common mind, such as the deluge, the sacrifice, intended of Isaac, the death of Absalom, the parable of Lazarus. The Methodists constantly pick out these striking things and here gain a just advantage. The *Advocate* while it regards the award of this distinguished Presbyterian divine, a just meed of praise to Methodist ministers, at least of a bygone age, admits that in some of the Methodist pulpits, the distinctive doctrines of revealed religion are announced less frequently and sharply than they have been. It further affirms we make the sacred desk an educator of philanthropy, an interpreter of new scientific unfoldings, a pattern, an expounder of æsthetic culture. Such pernicious influence should at once be rigorously arrested.

—According to an article in the *Church Standard*, an Episcopalian paper in England, the Established (Episcopal) Church is fast becoming an established chaos, for during the past thirty years there have sprung up twenty-five heresies and schisms.

—The Rev. James King, D. D., long a missionary in Greece, returned home some days since, after an absence of thirty-six years from the United States, in the service of the American Board. Just before his departure, Mr. King was invited by the King to the palace to administer to him and his family the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, which duty he cheerfully performed.

—The *Lutheran and Missionary*, in an editorial under the caption, "Is the New Theological Seminary Needed," gives the following five reasons, which are elaborately discussed in a column and a half, why the Institution is needed: 1. It is needed for the sake of *Pure Doctrine*. There is no Theological Seminary in the United States in which are fully taught, in the English language, the doctrines of the Reformation, as the Lutheran Church then held, and now holds and confesses them. 2. As the new Theological Seminary is needed for doctrine's sake by our English students, so it is needed for the sake of thoroughness by German students. 3. We need it for the sake of *homogeneousness* among the men who are to be trained for the Lutheran ministry. 4. We need it for the sake of the true co-ordinating and harmonious working of the two languages—English and German. 5. Total homogeneousness of doctrinal influence and co-ordination of language will tend to produce *unity of spirit* in the ministry, and through them, in the whole Church.

—A Bill has been introduced into the British Parliament requiring the clergymen of the Established Church to omit as a part of the first lesson, when it may so happen, the story of Tobit and the fish.

—This being the "heated term," worshippers accept to become drowsy when snugly seated in luxurious pews, especially if the sermon is dull, the following incident is in place, of a country parson, while preaching, the chief of his parishioners, sitting near the pulpit, was fast asleep. Whereupon, he said: "Now, beloved friends, I am in a great strait; for if I speak too softly those at the other end of the house cannot hear me; but if I talk too loud I shall waken the chief man in the parish."

—It is asserted, says the *Presbyterian*, that vast numbers, among the better educated of the Catholic clergy of France and Italy, are not merely opposed to the temporal power of the Pope, but regard the dogmas of the immaculate conception with scarcely concealed contempt. They also feel the necessity of harmonizing theology with science, and consider forced celibacy a hindrance, rather than an aid to holiness of life. This is a revival of common sense in an unexpected quarter.

—Dr. McGill, the stated Clerk of the Old School General Assembly, has just published the official statistics of the Presbyterian Church for the year ending May, 1864, from items: Synods in connection with Assembly, 35; Presbyteries, 171; Licentiates, 292; candidates for the ministry, 336; ministers 2,265; churches, 2,026; churches organized, 88, ministers deceased, 84; ministers added on examination, 9,250; on certificate, 2,016; total number of communicants reported, 231,960, adults baptized, 2,330; infants baptised, 9,801; total amount contributed for congregational and benevolent purposes, $2,345,671.

—According to the report from the Baptist Missionary Union Rooms in Boston, the Jubilee Fund is coming in well, already the amount exceeds $50,000.

—From the European correspondence of the N. Y. *Observer*, in an account of affairs at Rome, we learn the Roman See has contracted a new loan of 50,000,000 francs. The regular revenues of the Pope are 20,000,000 francs, and his annual expenses amount to 65,000,000. There is, then, every year a deficiency of 45,000,000 francs.

Peace Between Denmark and Germany.

[From the New York Post.]

We were right in expressing, a few days ago, the opinion that the peace conference of Vienna would soon be able to accomplish its task. The first sitting of the conference was held on the 26th of July, and on the 1st of August the Danish plenipotentiaries signed the preliminaries of peace.

The principal condition of peace, as was commonly expected, is the abandonment by Denmark of all claims to the three duchies of Schleswig, Holstein and Lauenburg, together with the duchies. She gives up the important islands which pertain to Schleswig. Some of these islands had partly belonged to Schleswig, and partly to the Danish province of Jutland. They now share the fate of Schleswig, and Denmark will receive for their cession a territorial indemnification by a "rectification" of the southern frontier of Jutland.

About the ratification of the peace by the Danish government and the Danish Diet there can be no doubt. The courage of the Danes is entirely broken. They know that they cannot expect any aid from abroad, and that if they continue the useless struggle they will only aggravate the conditions of peace. They have, therefore, made up their minds to accept whatever conditions the allied powers would offer.

Nor is there likely to be any serious opposition to the terms of peace from foreign powers. England has learned by her recent experience to be cautious. France expresses great dissatisfaction that Prussia and Austria have refused to recognize the nationalities principle, and they view claim the cession of both the Danish and the German districts of Schleswig, but she will confine herself to a verbal protest.

It is not yet officially announced in what manner Austria and Prussia intend to dispose of the duchies. We regard it, however, as certain that they will soon recognize the Prince of Augustenburg as the legitimate Duke.

Thus the Danish question seems to be settled, and forever erased from the list of European complications. But this settlement hastens the crisis in the inner German complications. The minor German governments, and still more the legislatures of the minor States, declare themselves strongly against the policy of the Prussian government, and in favor of maintaining, at any price, the sovereignty of the Federal Diet, over the two great German powers; that a violent collision becomes highly probable. Count Bismark meets the project of strengthening the authority of the Federal Diet by intimations that if the national movement in Germany becomes too strong, he will ally with Austria, abolish the Federal Diet altogether, and divide the small States among Austria and Prussia. This, at all events, shows that Prussia regards the approaching conflict between the national aspirations of the German people for unity and the present position of Austria and Prussia as irrepressible.

The Resumption of Operations on the James River.

A reasonable success in army operations can seldom eventuate without the honest report thereof being first anticipated by a series of exaggerated rumors. The satisfactory intelligence of a movement executed under the direction of Gen. Hancock at Deep Bottom on Saturday and Sunday last, was magnified yesterday by one of the evening papers into an assault upon Fort Darling, and its capture, along with fifteen hundred prisoners.

The story, truthfully told, appears to be that the Second Corps, with detachments from the Eleventh and Ninth, landed at Deep Bottom, on the north side of the James River, surprised the enemy's force, consisting of several hundred rebel soldiers stationed there, took a large number of there prisoners, and captured six of their guns and two mortars. The movement seems to have been effected without exciting the suspicions of the rebel General, and the task having been assigned to a thorough executive officer, its execution was naturally vigorous and successful.

Whether the movement resolves itself into a siege of Fort Darling, (which is exceedingly unlikely) or into a reconnoissance which shall determine the enemy's strength on the north side of the river, we have good assurance that it will be carried out. It is, however, proper to caution the public against looking for results which cannot possibly have ensued into the mind of the Commanding General, and the expectation of which must necessarily lead to disappointment. The prime satisfaction to be had from this intelligence is, that the Army of the Potomac still retains its old vigor and spirit, and that in the hands of trusted leaders it will be ready at the proper moment to outshine the most brilliant of its past achievements.—*N. Y. Times.*

The Rebels in Berks County.

On the 2d inst., six thousand nine hundred and forty-seven rebels and malignant Copperheads went to the polls in Berks county, and voted to prevent our gallant white soldiers in the field exercising the right of suffrage at the next election. The next day a considerable number of these same Copperheads and enemies of their country, held a county meeting in the city of Reading, and in order to give still more aid and comfort to their friend and master, Jeff Davis, passed out and cut rebel resolutions. A large majority of these rebels are the lineal descendants of the Tories of the Revolutionary war, who fought under George the Third against our patriotic forefathers in their struggle for Liberty and Union; who were taken prisoners at Trenton, &c., and removed to "Gallows Hill," at Reading, a place yet known as the "Hessian encampment," and who, after being exchanged, located themselves in Berks county. What else can be expected from such Tory stock, than that they should be in favor of preventing our patriotic Union soldiers, American freemen, from exercising the inestimable right of suffrage? We pray God that such blood may become extinct.—*Miners' Journal.*

The Desire for Peace Hypothetical.

[From the Richmond Examiner.]

As Lincoln wants peace on his own terms, so we also want peace on ours, and the terms mutually exclude and destroy each other. It is not, therefore, the same peace we desire, and the word itself handled about in this way, loses all meaning, and signifies literally nothing at all. It has become a hate ful word, and should be left exclusively to the use of buffalo orators in a neighboring State, if any of that sort still drivel and snivel. *Let us get rid of the whole vile cant, and sight once for war, and nothing but war, until as Davis is said to have said, "the last of this generation falls in his tracks," and then that we swear to pass it to the next as an inheritance. It is for those who have unjustly and wantonly invaded our country to offer us peace; and when they do, they will still offer it in vain until their armed men are withdrawn from the soil of these Confederate States, and the felon flag of stripes is hauled down from every fort within our borders. After that, it will be time enough to prate about peace. Now, the very word is nonsense.*

The Fall of Fort Morgan Conceded.

The Richmond papers generally concede that the fall of Fort Morgan is now only a question of time. The *Examiner*, of Aug. 10th, says:

"The telegraph informs us that two of our three forts that guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay are gone. Fort Powell was evacuated and blown up, and Fort Gaines, it seems, was basely surrendered to the enemy. *We fear Fort Morgan will follow.* Fort Morgan stands on the long, narrow strip of land on the east side of the strait which is the main entrance to Mobile Bay. Fort Gaines is situated on Dauphine Island, which is on the west side of the strait. The channel of the strait runs close under the guns of Fort Morgan. Fort Powell stood on a small island in the bay, a mile or thereabouts north of Fort Gaines. *Each of these positions was armed with the finest guns we have in our service.*"

The Boston *Journal* speaks at follows of the recruits obtained abroad for that city: They are not only physically a fine set of men, but they appear to be deeply interested in our struggle with aristocracy and slavery. They are infinitely superior as a class to the majority of those who are hawked about by substitute brokers, and will remain faithfully to their engagements and true to the flag under which they have enlisted. Most of them have had military experience.

NOMINATION IN THE 14TH DISTRICT.—The Congressional Convention for the District, composed of Lorain, Medina, Ashland, Wayne and Holmes, met Wednesday at Wooster and nominated Hon. [illegible] of Wayne, for Congress.—*Cleveland Herald, 18th.*

News Items.

BEFORE the Examining Board for officers of colored regiments at Washington there have been examined to this date two thousand two hundred and fifty-nine candidates, of whom fifteen hundred and sixty-one have been passed, and nine hundred and fifty eight rejected. Those recommended for commissions were as follows; for the positions named respectively: Colonels, twelve; lieutenant colonels, thirty; majors, forty-seven; captains, three hundred and twenty-two; first lieutenants, four hundred and fifty-nine; second lieutenants, seven hundred and one. Total, fifteen hundred and sixty-one.

A New York merchant, on Tuesday, sent a boy with a bag containing $5000 in gold, intended for a broker in Wall street. Arriving at the office of the broker the boy placed the gold on the counter, but was told by a person behind it that the principal was not in, and that he (the speaker) had nothing to do with the office business. A man who was standing outside the counter, and who probably heard this reply, approached the boy, saying "all right, sonny, leave the bag; they all know me; I'll tend to it for you, and see it's all right." The boy was left, but disappeared soon afterwards, about the same time the man did.

WM. J. BROWNSON, son of Orestes A. Brownson, killed himself on the 11th ult., by jumping out of a stage, three and a half miles from Virginia City, Nevada Territory, while in a sleep, probably dreaming. The remains were buried the next day by the Catholics. About two years ago, an elder brother of the deceased jumped, in a fit of somnambulism, out of his law office window from St. Anthony's Falls, and was killed.

A BRAVE Irishman has been pitching himself off as an excitement to soldiers in London, and succeed in raising quite a sum of money by the sale of Stonewall Jackson's autograph. Unfortunately he wrote them Thomas Jefferson Jackson, instead