RELIGIOUS NEWS.

The annual conference of the M. E. Church begins in this city on the 17th inst.

The Orthodox Quakers of this country number 54,000. They have 726 churches, 348 meetinghouses for 259,600 persons.

The largest Young Men's Christian Association is that in Brooklyn, N. Y. It numbers more than 4,000 members.

The Presbyterians and Methodists in the United States are each divided into ten different ecclesiastical organizations.

The missionary collection of the Seventeenth Street M. E. Church on the 7th inst., amounted to $1,100, against $875 last year.

The Wilmington Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will commence its sessions on Wednesday, the 17th inst.

The Rev. Charles Gillett, of Brooklyn, agent of the American Board of Missions of the Episcopal Church, died suddenly in Baltimore on Sabbath last.

Dr. Jessup baptized the first Burman convert in 1819. Since that time more than 40,000 converts have been baptized by the Baptists, or one in three, making an average of about two every day.

Rev. Francis Vinton, D. D., of Trinity Church, New York, has been elected to the professorship of ecclesiastical polity and law, in the Episcopal General Theological Seminary of that city.

The Cumberland Presbyterians North and South have no relation. The former have about 548 ministers, and 48,609 members. Their church edifices number 1,600, and their church accommodations for 262,978.

The General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church are to meet in New York in May. The Old School, at the Mercer Street church, Broadway Hall, and the New School at the Church of the Covenant, Park avenue.

A movement is on foot to restore the parish church at Elstow, Bedford, England, the birthplace of John Bunyan. It is intended to make the church a monument to the memory of the author of that wonderful work, "The Pilgrim's Progress."

In our Louisiana annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church there are now four colored presiding elders, and one white one.

It is stated that the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, New York, which has been noted for its withdraw its fellowship from Rev. Crammond Kennedy, because he was ordained as an "Open Baptist Preacher," for advocating the propriety of open communion. Mr. Kennedy, it is understood, will unite with the Presbyterian Church.

The Church of England holds in fee simple the right to property worth $140,000,000 in gold, the annual income of which, more than half the population of England and Wales is taken by the ministers of the Episcopal church in Scotland and twelve per cent. in Ireland.

The Rev. Alexander R. Thompson, D. D., of New York, one of the best pulpit orators of the day, has been invited to preach in the Second Reformed Church, Seventh street above Brown, and will probably accept the invitation for next evening. He will also address the Sunday schools in the afternoon.

Rabbi Rabbinowicz, of Jerusalem, has just delivered a lecture, in New York, on the Holy Land. He says that the present inhabitants of the city are Turks, Arabs, Christians and Jews, the latter numbering 15,000 families, divided into four congregations. The government has conferred upon their chief Rabbin authority to settle all matters in dispute among the Jews. The speaker expressed the hope that one day Jews would yet deliver Jerusalem into the hands of His people.

St. James's Episcopal Church, one of the oldest parishes of that denomination in Brooklyn, has at last yielded to the necessities of the westward emigration of its congregation, and is to be removed to the corner of Twenty-second and Walnut streets, where a lot has been purchased and a handsome edifice will be erected. The demolition of the time-honored building will not be commenced until next October, a year hence, and the new church and the site devoted to business purposes.

Seventy persons were received into the Cohocksink Presbyterian Church, of this city, on last Sabbath, making the total that were on profession of faith. These were, for the most part, the fruits of a revival in the church during the past winter. The Rev. Mr. Muchmore, the pastor, expects to leave for Europe about the first in May, as a delegate to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Rev. Alex. Reed, of Central Presbyterian Church, is also a delegate to the same body.

The Kensington M. E. Church, better known as the "Old Brick," of which the Rev. Mr. Wiley is pastor, has recently purchased his instrumentality, removed a debt of $10,000 from its church building. The church, in its parsonate, has experienced a great degree of prosperity, nearly 300 having been received into membership. On Monday evening last a committee of ladies presented, in behalf of the church, to the pastor was presented with a purse containing $250 and his wife with a set of silver ware, as a token of their esteem.

The tenth anniversary of the Young People's Association of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Eighteenth and Spruce streets, was held on Tuesday evening last. An address was delivered by Rev. Thomas D. Anderson, D. D., of New York, subject—"Success." The annual report, read by the secretary, showed that there are 193 active, 6 life, 5 contributing and 65 miscellaneous members of the association. During the year 26 members of the association visited 2,756 homes, and distributed 42,905 tracts and 1,000 religious books. A number were brought into the Sunday schools. The receipts of the association were $431 56, and the expenditures $380 61.

The Church of the Messiah (Universalist), Locust street, below Broad, has recently undergone a mode of Christian work on a novel plan. Acting on the supposed principle that self-connected with their church organization should be actively engaged in the promotion of her interests, they have reported and adopted a compact and plan of procedure, providing for the care of the Sabbath schools, for a Bible class, a ladies' auxiliary meeting and an improvement meeting. The congregation is divided into twelve working committees, each of which is responsible for the general oversight and direction of the whole. These committees comprise the entire membership, and by keeping all earnestly working for cause of Christ, good is expected to result. The pastor, Rev. Dr. Brooks, is laboring earnestly and effectively in his charge.

The General Conference of the Evangelical Alliance, which was to be held in the city of New York next fall, has been postponed for one year, as the branches of the Alliance in England, Germany and Switzerland cannot be fully represented at the meeting during the present year. The alliance has organized in Great Britain, France, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Turkey, New Zealand, Australia and Africa, most of which were represented in the General Conference held in London in 1867. It is the most powerful organization of Evangelical Christians in the world, directing its energies to the promotion of greater unity, the defence of religious liberty and the rights of conscience, and the adoption of more efficient measures for the spread of the Gospel of Christ, and the amelioration of the condition of the human race. When the meeting occurs it will be one of the great events of the time.

The Minister of Education for Philadelphia, in the month of January, 1868, the Midnight Mission of Philadelphia was organized by a number of our citizens, after hearing satisfactory reports of kindred enterprises in Glasgow, London and the city of New York. Its primary object is to rescue destitute our fellow-creatures from a far worse than Egyptian bondage, and from a far more terrible frame than bread and water, to save the soul, the immortal spirit, from a fate—to lift up fallen woman from the level of brutes and profit, and to render her present character and conduct worthy of her glorious destinies beyond the grave.

The first annual report of the organization has been issued. It says: "As appropriate home was secured in the central part of our city, every way adapted to the work, and in a simple, childlike faith in Jesus, who received sinners and sate with them, the enterprise was commenced. On Thursday evening, the 20th of February, 1868, the house allotted to labor was opened, neatly and comfortably furnished, was thrown open for the reception of fallen women. A consecration from the Board of Managers assembled, with the pastors, and fervently invoked all of the Holy Ghost—earnest and touching prayers were offered—the streets marked off into districts, to each of which two gentlemen were assigned, and then the little band started out on its loving errand. As those who were sought were met in groups or single, an invitation was placed in their hands containing the inscription: 'Admit the bearer at Midnight Mission, 631 Locust street, on Thursday evening.' Tea served at half-past ten o'clock" and invoking continued two little books of exhortation to virtue.

"By scores the girls are strolling along through dark streets, and in the light pomped forth from theatres, oyster saloons, and dance-houses, the cards of admission are rapidly distributed—strange is the effect of them; some laugh, some are thankful, and very few receive them with scorn. The question arose, how many invitations were, will they come? At ten o'clock they went in the Mission House to see the result of their labor—steaming coffee is waiting, gas soaring forth a brilliant light, fire or five Christian ladies at the door, but nobody has arrived yet, and two broken-hearted girls, who are with a lady in one of the upper rooms to receive them, at clock arrives at ten, in a quarter of an hour passes—one, two, three or more; some together, some singly, second hour passes and enter, having first shown their cards of admission. They hesitatingly look into the parlor and sometimes some words of welcome are spoken, and they are conducted to and seated near a fire-burning lady who do not stand at a distance, but take seats at their side, just as close to them as Jesus came to us when seeking our wandering soul. Whilst the parlor is occupied the ladies escape from them in conversation."

The Mission can accommodate twenty-five persons. These inmates are brought under home influences, and are treated cheerfully in the duties of the Home. They are taught lessons of economy, industry, system, cleanliness and order, and thus prepared to earn an honest living. A sewing room, under the care of a lady, is provided, and a valuable auxiliary to the work. Here the girls are employed certain hours of the day, and receive for their very great in a pecuniary sense, the instruction received by the ladies in attendance.

Since the commencement of the work in February, there have been at the meetings on Tuesday evenings an aggregate of 450 visitors.

Twenty-four girls have been received into the Home, some of them remaining three months, others as long as they may desire to stay. One portal, six to the Magdalene, alone restored to their families, twenty provided with situations, the Christian homes, while eleven are a present at the Mission. The members of the Board have been indefatigable in their labors, nothing being too difficult for them to undertake. Hours, through snow, rain, and the heat of summer, they have visited unfortunate females in their abodes, and have gone to the Mayor, requesting institution and advice to the work, and have sought out the parents of many girls, who have been placed in homes, or at the Hospital, and have on available time visited to carry out the work of the Mission.

The expenses for the year reached the sum of $6,005 50.

The following are the officers for 1869:

Board of Managers—Rev. R. Ricker Newton, Rev. J. Wheaton Smith, Rev. Richard Newton, Rev. George Bringhurst, Messrs. George H. Stuart, R. D. Sheppard, Thomas Chalkley, Dr. F. Willard, Samuel Covey, William A. Farr, Rev. George Bringhurst, General Superintendent.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS—First Session.

[CLOSE OF YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.]

House.—Mr. Schenck introduced a bill to strengthen the public credit, and relating to contracts for the payment of coin, being the order of last session of that title, as it had passed the two Houses at the close of the Committee of Conference.

Mr. Allison moved to amend by striking out the second section of the bill, which explains gold currency.

Mr. Burr moved to lay the bill on the table. Negatived—yeas 56, nays 86.

The question being taken on Mr. Allison's amendment striking out the second section of the bill, it was agreed to—yeas 86, nays 57.

So the second section was struck out, and the bill was then passed.

The following are of the provisions:

Be it enacted, &c., That in order to remove any doubt as to the right of the Government to discharge all just obligations to the public credit, and to enable contracting questions and decisions of laws, by virtue of which such obligations have been contracted, it is hereby provided and declared that the faith of the United States is so pledged to the payment in coin of the full equivalent of all the interest-bearing obligations of the United States, commonly called the five-twenties, that no law of any such obligations can be passed without the express intent that the same shall be paid in lawful money or other currency than gold or silver, coin, at the option of the holders of such obligations not already due shall be received, or payment thereof be enforced, at the option of the United States notice shall be convertible into coin at the option of the holder, or sales at such time before the date of the United States, being at a lower rate of interest than the bonds to be exchanged, and be payable in coin, and the United States shall also solemnly pledge its faith to make such further provision as may be practicable period for the redemption of United States notes in coin.

The title of the bill was amended so as to make it read: "A act to strengthen the public credit of the United States."

Mr. Butler suggested that he did not think the bill did strengthen the public credit.

The vote on the passage of the bill was—yeas 144, nays 47—as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Ames, Armstrong, Arnell, Asper, Axtell, Bailey, Banks, Beaman, Benjamin, Benton, Bingham, Blair, Boles, Boyd, Buffington, Bullock, Cornes, Churchill, Cobb, Cook, Cooper, Cowles, Culloom, Davis, Dawes, Dawson, Deweese, Dixon, Donnan, Ferris, Ferry, Fischer, Fisher, Fitch, Gilfillan, Hale, Hawley, Heaton, Hess, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Jenckes, Jones (N. C.), Judd, Julian, Kelley, Ketcham, Knapp, Lafin, Lash, Lawrence (Ohio), Lynch, Magnano, McCrery, McGrew, Mercur, Moore (Ill.), Moore (N. J.), Morrill (Me.), Negley, O'Neill, Packard, Paine, Palmer, Phelps, Poland, Pomeroy, Prosser, Roots, Sawyer, Sargent, Sawyer, Schenck, Scofield, Shellabarger, Smith (Ohio), Smith (Vt.), Stevens, Stewart, Stockton, Strickland, Taylor, Tanner, Tillman, Twichell, Upson, Vanhorn, Van Wyck, Washburn, Wells, Wilson, Wm. Wilson, Welker, Wheeler, Whittemore, Wilkinson, Williams, Williams, Wintersmith—92.

NAYS—Archer, Beatty, Beck, Briggs, Bird, Burr, Butler (Mass.), Butler (Tenn.), Cake, Colburn, Craig, Dawes, Dickinson, Eldridge, Getz, Golladay, Hawkins, Hunter, Jones (Ky.), Jones (Ky.), Kerr, Knott, Marshall, Mayham, McMurtrie, McNeely, Moffet, Mungen, Niblack, Orth, Pike, Pomeroy, Price, Robinson, Smith (Oregon), Stiles, Stone, Strader, Sweeney, T. T. D. Tyndale, Tanner, Van Trump, Wright (Ohio), Winchester, Woodward—47.

The Speaker announced the Committee on Elections as follows: Messrs. Paine (Wis.), Twichell (N. Y.), Boston (N. C.), Donnan, Butler (Tenn.), Stevenson (Ohio), Burdett (Mo.), Kerr, Hoge and Rosskill (Pa.).

The Speaker stated that he would announce the standing committees on Monday next.

The Speaker presented the resignation as member of Congress of Mr. Crawford (Mass.), now Secretary of the Treasury.

Senate adjourned till Monday next.

—A French arsenal has just given indefinite leave of absence without pay to one who occupied an inferior position in it. The reason is that the man was accidentally discovered that the laborer had once been connected with a travelling show. The director of the arsenal announced him: "You used to be a mountebank?" "Yes." "You swallowed swords?" "That was my business." "I discharge you. If you should have a hankering for your old occupation, you would probably strip the arsenal, and it would be impossible to detect you. We can't have sword-eaters here."

CITY BULLETIN.

The Convention Election.—Messrs. W. P. Mesick and R. M. Batten, Examiners, held another session yesterday afternoon.

The vote of the Sixteenth Division, Twentieth Ward, was produced by the Mayor's Clerk and the ballot box opened, and the papers counted and submitted in evidence.

Mr. Gerhart objected to the opening of the box, on the ground that there was no specification in regard to the Sixteenth Ward.

The Twenty-third Ward—Rodeo Hill Spring, did not vote in Sixth Division, Fourth Ward, in which there was not the City. [Laughter and marked "V," and No. 297 on list of voters.]

Mr. Elton C. Reinhart, testified—Received 710 Passyunk road last October; Michael Cahill did not live there; he lived in the same house as my name; I have lived there nearly three years. [Michael Cahill is assessed 710 Passyunk road, marked "V," and No. 355 on list of voters.]

Cross-examined—The house is divided into a court back of us; I know all the parties who have lived in those houses during the past three years in October Wm. Lafferty, Arthur Cassidy, Mr. Simms and Geo. White lived in the houses; none of these parties had any boarders.

Mrs. Mary McCullough, testified—Resided 725 South Seventh street last October; Roger Herald did not live there; he moved away in September, on 20th or 25th of September; he moved into the country.

J. Alex Simpson testified—I was present before the Legislative committee when the Moot-box of the Sixteenth Division, Twentieth Ward, containing the Judiciary ticket, was opened and the ballots counted; the first four votes for Charles Gibbons, Greenbank 270; there were bundles of tickets that I saw containing more or less for Mr. Greenbank, and made up to ten with Thayer's tickets; they were nearly all in bundles of ten; each bundle was opened, the name called off and tallied as it slept, second time opened and entire, having first shown their cards of admission. They hesitatingly look into the parlor and sometimes some words of welcome are spoken, and they are conducted to and seated near a fire-burning lady who do not stand at a distance, but take seats at their side, just as close to them as Jesus came to us when seeking our wandering soul. Whilst the parlor is occupied the ladies escape from them in conversation."

The Sixteenth Division, Twenty-first Ward, Mr. Gerhart objected to testimony of Mr. Simpson.

David F. Foley testified—I was return inspector's clerk in the Sixteenth Division, Twentieth Ward, after one o'clock and until the polls closed; I was appointed by Democratic committeeman Quinn; I think his first name was Edward; I was the Republican return inspector's clerk; the return inspector's clerk became a Democrat; I was appointed by Mr. Quinn; I made up the tickets; the bundle was completed by adding five tickets; I saw the tickets; I saw the bundle made up of the bundles and saw no attempt to open the bundles; I was outside in the early part of the morning when the polls were opened; when I was there was a general confusion; no misgiving in regard to the manner in which the vote was handled; I was there when the return inspector's clerk was not being fully counted.

Cross-examined—My impression was that the clerk, whose place I took, was drunk, and the return inspector had to do the work; I was asked to his duties.

Edward Gideon testified—I was at the polls of the Sixteenth division, Twentieth Ward, at the time the vote was counted; I was a Republican tickets in the morning, and gave them out to the men in line, and saw the voting; coinvoer; I heard the hourly announcement of votes from the return inspector; I heard votes polled, and the announcement of votes counted; I felt that the count was not fairly made, and I sought to convey that impression to people; I called upon Mr. Samuel Dailey, and requested him to hand a note to Mr. Jenckes; Nathan Bailey, who was window inspector, he requested I would write the note; I wrote it; I gave the following words as near as I can recollect: "Dealst upon a count; there is something wrong; Samuel Bailey told me that he had handed it in at the door, and Nathan Bailey told me that he never received it, and I think he intercepted and tore it; I saw Mr. Quinn once; I spoke about that time; our canvass gave the Republicans from ten to twenty majority in the precinct; I am satisfied from the return made that the count was not fairly counted.

Edward Reedy testified—I was Republican window inspector's clerk in the Sixteenth division, Twenty-fifth Ward, and took down the names of the voters; I discovered a difference between the number of votes as announced hourly and the actual number of ballots taken in at the window; I noticed that in the first hour that although there were ninety-six votes announced as polled, the ballot box contained a number was agreed to be correct by the other clerk, the number announced as the hourly vote was 96; I did not think the announcement was correct; I noticed the second hour the number at the window was ninety-eight votes polled, and the announcement of the hourly return varied from it; the third hour a similar discrepancy occurred; I felt that the announcement was different from each other; the irregularity was so manifest, and I felt satisfied that the return inspector's clerk was incompetent, and in an unfit condition to perform the duties of the office; I felt satisfied that he should be dismissed, and, after a discussion, all of the officers determined he should be dismissed; up to that time I had noticed that the manner in which the return inspector were noting down the result of the count was very loose; at the close of the polls I found that the return of the election was absolutely false as compared with the actual number of votes polled during the hourly return varied from it; the third hour a similar discrepancy occurred; I felt that the announcement was different from each other; the irregularity was so manifest, and I felt satisfied that the return inspector's clerk was incompetent, and in an unfit condition to perform the duties of the office; I felt satisfied that he should be dismissed, and, after a discussion, all of the officers determined he should be dismissed; up to that time I had noticed that the manner in which the return inspectors