REFORMATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

An Appeal.

The following address upon a very important subject will be found worthy of careful perusal:

To the Hons. S. J. Randall, Charles O'Neill, Leonard Myers, W. D. Kelley and John R. Reading, Representatives from the City of Philadelphia.—Gentlemen: Knowing that the preservation of our institutions imperatively demands some radical reform in the administration of the public service, we desire to call your attention to the bill introduced in the House of Representatives April 19, 1869, by the Hon. Mr. Jenckes, of Rhode Island, and popularly known as the "Civil Service Bill." Its provisions, as you doubtless are aware, are as follows:

Sec. 1. requires competitive examinations as preliminary to all appointments to office, except in the case of Postmasters and officers requiring senatorial confirmation.

Sec. II. creates a board of four commissioners, to be nominated by the President and to hold their office for five years. Their duties are defined to be—

1st. To prescribe qualifications for admission into every branch of the civil service.

2d. To provide for the examination of applicants.

3d. To establish rules for conducting such examinations, and to designate time and place in each section of the United States for holding them.

4th. To conduct these examinations, or to appoint examiners for that purpose.

5th. To report their proceedings annually to Congress.

Sec. III. prescribes that appointments shall be made on probation in the order of merit as reported by the examiners, and regulates promotion in office; one-fourth of all promotions to be made for merit, irrespective of seniority.

Sec. IV. establishes a fee of five dollars for examination and ten dollars for a certificate of recommendation, which fee is to be paid into the United States Treasury.

Sec. V. empowers the Board to prescribe rules for removal from office for misconduct or inefficiency, after due trial.

Sec. VI. permits the Board to appoint assistant examiners.

Sec. VII. directs the heads of departments to suspend or dismiss their subordinates, according to the finding of the Board, after due trial.

Sec. VIII. empowers the President to dismiss from office, but such dismissal is not to take effect if the officer demands a trial and is not found guilty of the allegations.

Sec. IX. provides for the salaries of the Commissioners and the expenses of the Board.

Sec. X. empowers heads of departments to require their existing subordinates to undergo examination, and to report such as qualified to be dismissed.

Sec. XI. requires appointees to serve in any part of the country to which they may be ordered by the head of their department.

Sec. XII. declares all citizens of the United States eligible to examination and appointment, and permits heads of departments to designate the branches for which females may be eligible after passing the necessary examinations.

Sec. XIII. empowers the President or Senate to require applicants for office not included in this act to undergo examination.

It will be seen that the effect of this measure would be to assimilate the civil service of the country to military service, requiring evidence of competency before appointment, assuring continuance of office during good behavior, and stimulating efficiency with the prospect of promotion. Its result would speedily be to create an *esprit-de-corps*, and a sentiment of honor, which experience has shown to be among the strongest incentives to fidelity; while liability to dismissal for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or dishonesty, would insure the best exertions of every officer.

We do not say that this particular bill is the best that could be devised for the purpose. Possibly the wisdom of Congress may improve it in many particulars, but we believe that we speak the sentiment of a majority, and a large when we declare that some such measure is the imperative necessity of the time. It is now more than thirty years since the democratic doctrine was promulgated that the public offices were spoils to be divided among the victors of a political contest, and so thoroughly have our political leaders of fortune adopted the idea that they have had the boldness to declare rotation in office to be one of the well ordained maxims of a republic. It should seem that the mere statement of such a principle ought to be sufficient refutation of its wasteful and criminal absurdity, and yet the public has tamely submitted while the evil has yearly grown larger, until its gigantic proportions now threaten to reduce our public service to chaos, and to bring our institutions at no distant period.

It may safely be affirmed that no civilized community has a public service so costly and so incompetent as our own. Appointments, made solely with a view to the political interest, place in office men notoriously unfit for their positions, or incapable of great; and these men, knowing that their retention of place is in no wise dependent upon the faithful discharge of duty, devote their energies to intriguing and wire-pulling, to the neglect of their proper functions. In many cases, knowing the uncertainty of tenure, they eagerly abuse their positions to plunder the public and the government. These arises not only the multiplication of offices beyond all proportion to the work to be done, but the abuse of those offices to illicit gain until the total aggregate of unnecessary salaries is the smallest part of the pecuniary loss to the taxpayer. The Translation in which he has written his name was one presented to him by Florio in acknowledgment of his assistance in the preparation of his version of an accomplished poet, and one who, either from modesty, or a consciousness of power which raised him above such apparent trifles, was regardless of having his name attached. And, than Shakespeare, no other poet of the time could from either cause afford to be so prodigal. Believing, then, that these verses possess the genuine ring of Shakespeare's poetry, I claim them on his behalf and venture to offer them before your readers for their consideration, and I trust confirmation.

"I am, &c., J. O'CONNEL."

The editor of the *Daily News* differs from Mr. O'Connell's conclusions, remarking:

"The verses have all the ease and characteristics of the period; but then it should be recollected that at this time the gift of writing sonnets for good poetry seems to have been possessed by nearly all educated gentlemen. The poem can hardly, we conceive, be ranked among very high level. It is not remarkably beautiful or humorous; it contains no special felicities, such as Shakespeare rarely wrote fourteen lines without misfeasing. The phraseology is, on the whole, clumsy and awkward, and the versification is wanting in that melliflous and lyric power so conspicuous in the undoubted sonnets of the great dramatist. The sentiment is far from unlike the usual lovely monuments was a favorite one with the Elizabethan poets, and has been expressed in two or three sonnets by Shakespeare himself. But contrast, in any of these brief but noble poems, the confident mastery of the style, the splendid elocution of the verse, and the illumination of passion, feeling, imagination and fancy which glows throughout, with the dry and hesitating particles the cobbled versification, and the murky quality of thought which characterizes the little so printed yesterday. Another argument is this: that the structure of the Sonnet in Florio's Montaigne' is entirely different from that which Shakespeare adopted. The former appears to be written on the Italian model—that is to say, if we are to accept 'eyes' and 'lyes' as rhymes to 'memories' and 'mysteries.' Shakespeare's sonnets, however, are constructed on a more elegant pattern, and it is complete. It is improbable that he should for once, and only once, have followed the more difficult and laborious Italian method, while in so many other instances he practised the simpler construction, in which he widened from a mere popularity suited to the particular qualities of his versification."

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Philadelphia Baptist Association.

The Association reassembled yesterday afternoon.

The Treasurer of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund reported a cash balance of $202 14; permanent investment, ground rent, $533 33; new city loan, $800; U. S. 5-20 loan, $1,400 (Dr. Hughes' legacy, $1,250); F. Lee, $350; Hetty Jones's legacy, $200.—Total, $4,325 47.

The Moderator appointed as delegates to the Pennsylvania Baptist General Association, Messrs. Scudder, Henson, Hornberger and Wallace.

Rev. Spencer Kennard offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the pastors of our churches are earnestly requested to use every means in their power for the distribution of the publications of our Baptist Publication Society among the members of their own congregations, as a means of enlightening and strengthening them in the labor and work of the life of a branch of the Christian Church.—Adopted.

Rev. Mr. Tolbert offered the following, and it was adopted:

Resolved, That we view with great satisfaction the steady increase of the library of the Historical Society of the Church, amounting already to 4,000 volumes. As the Society asks but one collection of any church, we think there are few cases in which it should be denied.

Dr. Pinn offered the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, Collegiate education, fostered by the Philadelphia Association over a hundred years ago, is more important and more widely demanded now than ever before; *And whereas*, The ability of the University at Lewisburg—our institution of learning to meet the requirements of this demand is only limited by the want of greater endowment; therefore it is

Resolved, That we approve, and commend in favor of a collection of this Association, the position of the Alumni of the University, that annually on the Sabbath immediately preceding the general Thanksgiving Day the Churches take up collections, to be called a Thanksgiving offering, and which is to be given directly to the Trustees of the University, for the gradual increase of the endowment fund.—Adopted.

Resolutions recommending the advocacy of temperance principles among the families of the Baptist church were offered, and after debate, were unanimously adopted.

The committee to whom was referred, at the last session of this Association, two questions from the Lower Merion Church, submitted their report. The first query, Is when candidates are examined for baptism, should not their examination be before the church alone, not in a mixed assembly? The answer was, it ought not to be in a mixed assembly. Second—When those baptized are received into church fellowship, either by the hand of fellowship, or the laying on of hands, or both, should not their reception be in the presence of the church alone. Answer—Members are not received into Baptist churches by either of the methods mentioned, but by a vote of the church. In the case of one coming by letter, the membership is absolute and immediate.

After the reading of this report, a prolonged discussion took place, and was participated in by Rev. P. S. Henson, Rev. Dr. Winter, Rev. Dr. Castle, Rev. Dr. Cathcart, Rev. Dr. J. Wheaton Smith, Rev. Spencer Kennard.

A motion to lay the report on the table was lost, after which, on motion of Rev. Dr. J. Wheaton Smith, the report was referred to a committee, with instructions to report at the next session of the Association.

Literature that May Become Valuable.

The death of Mr. Thomas Watts, of the British Museum, suggests to the London *Times* the following observations on the preservation of literature which is at the moment apparently worthless, but is likely to become valuable:

"A great historian like Macaulay finds his most precious materials in brandsides that were absolutely worthless when first published. We all know of thousands of books which are now issued, which are beneath contempt. We are even ashamed to see them lining our trunks. Still, it is right that the British Museum should preserve copies of them. One day they may be of use—as recording some out-of-the-way fact, indicating some curious trait of manners, or preserving the link which may enable the philologist to trace the history of a word. Nearly every volume published two hundred years ago has now an exceptional value. If they are not bought in England, there are collectors across the Atlantic who will snatch them up very quickly. Go into the shops of second-hand booksellers and see how independent they are as to the prices of reported trials. If a customer grumbles at the price demanded, he is told on the spot that the booksellers find a ready market for old trials in the United States. Now we know that in our day the worthless literature which may centuries hence be a mine of wealth, is enormous and increasing; but what is to be done? Every man living has a pen in his hand, and if only his writing takes the form of a book entered at Stationers' Hall, it will be preserved for ages in the National Library. Centuries hence the bookworm will find there, illustrated with woodcuts, verbatim reports of the trials of Palmer and Rush, the Mannings, Madeline Smith and Madame Rachel.

"Centuries hence, also, he will find those numerous volumes which it is the fashion for tradesmen to issue, and which are but a sublimated form of trade-circular. The wine merchant has a volume on his wines, and the jeweler on his hats, and the jeweler on his jewels, and the sewing-machine manufacturer on his sewing-machines, and the lockmaker on his locks, and the hosier on his hosiery, and the cook on his viands. How are we to stow all these away and at the same time to keep pace with the literature of foreign countries, which is scarcely less productive—filling our shelves not only with French, German, Italian and Spanish works, but with those of nations so far off as the Thomas Watts, Danish, Russian and Hungarian books—yet more, with the volumes of Mongols and Mandarins, of Zulu Kaffirs and Hawaiian Islanders? We think of our future librarians as of those children mentioned in fairy tales, who have impossible tasks appointed them by malicious godmothers—to collect in a day all the sands of the shore, or to count ere dinner time all the grains of wheat in a kingdom. There will appear no exaggeration in this to any one who will go to the British Museum and study the catalogue. A man may take a good constitutional walk every day in hunting for half a dozen books in this enormous catalogue, which of itself fills about one thousand volumes."

ART ITEMS.

—The sale of the Academy of Fine Arts was not consummated at the date when the refusal expired, the theatrical people not being able to raise the wind.

—The eccentric French painter Courbet, whose radical ideas have been much in the way of his advancement in his native kingdom, has just been decorated, in company with Cabanel and Corot, with the Order of Civil Merit of the First Class of Bavaria. Will the radical venture to wear his cipher?

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MUSICAL.

MUSICAL.

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THE REGULAR FALL QUARTER WILL BEGIN on MONDAY, September 20, 1869. Pupils may enter any time. Lessons are given either at 1026 WALNUT or 637 North BROAD Street, to suit the convenience of pupils.

THE ENTIRE FACULTY OF THE CONSERVATORY whose names appear on the card for the last two years have joined for this institution for the ensuing year, and consists of Professors Himmelstedt, Thomelen, Boeck, Stoll, Kellner, Adams, Girard, Bauer, Lenz, Schmitz, Schlotterbeck, Schlotterbeck, Schlotterbeck