RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Local and General.

The Rev. Mr. Langford has declined the call extended to him from Christ Episcopal Church.

A new parsonage has been built by the Presbyterian church at Manayunk, and the pastor, Rev. A. C. V. Schenck, has taken possession of it.

The Tuesday Evening Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening next, at 7½ o'clock, at the Western Methodist Church, Twenty-second street, below Walnut.

The Monday Afternoon Union Meeting will be held on Monday afternoon next, at 4 o'clock, at St. George's Methodist Church, Fourth street, above Race.

The Rev. John Moore will preach at the hall, northeast corner of Broad and Market streets, to-morrow evening at 7½ o'clock. Subject, "The Wesleyan Christian."

The Rev. B. C. Matlack has resigned the rectorship of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Nativity, and accepted the Secretaryship of the Evangelical Knowledge Society.

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society is said to be made up as follows: Baptist, 1; Friend, 1; Congregationalist, 2; Methodists, 5; Reformed, 2; Presbyterians, 17.

The Trust Visitors' monthly union meeting for prayer, reports and remarks, will be held on Wednesday evening next, at 7½ o'clock, at Christ Church, Green street, below Sixteenth.

The Rev. J. Conkey, of Shamokin, has accepted the call extended to him by the congregation of the Sixth Presbyterian Church, on Spruce street, below Sixth, and will enter on his duties the first Sabbath in March.

The Philadelphia Branch of the Woman's Union Missionary Society will hold its anniversary on Thursday evening next, 17th inst., at 7½ o'clock, in Rev. H. A. Boardman's church, Twelfth and Walnut streets.

The Angora Mission, located in the southwestern part of this city, is to be organized into a Baptist church. On Sunday last sixty-two members of the First Church, West Philadelphia, withdrew from that organization to join this mission.

The Rev. Thomas Morris, senior bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is in his 79th year. He has not preached for more than two years past, owing to a strong predisposition to hemorrhage. He still attends divine worship once a week, and is regular in hearing the gospel preached.

Some twenty or thirty of the great churches and cathedrals of Mexico are deserted and going to ruin. Some are used as shops, stables or manufactories. There are twenty-eight Protestant places of worship in the city, with audiences of from fifty to a hundred and fifty, addressed by native converted priests.

The two hundred and forty-third union meeting in behalf of the Philadelphia Tract and Missionary Society will be held to-morrow evening, at 7½ o'clock, at the Presbyterian Church, corner of Eighteenth and Arch streets. Rev. A. A. Willits will preside. Addresses by the pastor, Rev. T. Starr, D. D., and others.

A public meeting of the Historical Society of the Philadelphia Conference of the M. E. Church was held last week in the Kensington Church, and interesting addresses were made, and books and other articles of historical value were exhibited. The anniversary of the society will take place at Pottsville on March 17.

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's Church has voted that candidates for membership shall not be required hereafter to assent to the confession of faith. The Tribune advocated the measure, and said that the former rule which excluded Universalists and other Christian Christians from the church was unjust, and should be repealed.

The Rev. Samuel Clements, of Cincinnati, has accepted the position of Principal of the Protestant Episcopal Institute, of this city, and will enter upon his duties at once. The treasurer, Mr. Charles Dunbrow, has resigned, and the Board has appointed in his stead Robert B. Sterling, Esq., a member of the Church of the Epiphany.

The receipts of the Boards of the Presbyterian Church in the month of December were as follows: Board of Domestic Missions, $3,474 56; Board of Education, $297 46; Board of Foreign Missions, $1,294 19; Board of Publication (Colportage and Distribution Funds), $3,135 26; Board of Church Extension, $1,402 21; Fund for Disabled Ministers, $4,526 85.

The Rev. J. Newton Stanger, who has had charge of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Germantown, since the Rev Mr. Leacock's death, has received and accepted a call to the church in Delaware, near Trenton, vacant by the Rev. W. A. Newbold resigned to take the post of General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society. Mr. Stanger will enter upon his duties on the 1st of March.

Brooklyn claims to be the "City of Churches," having two hundred and twenty places of worship, being an increase of eighty-eight in the last fifteen years, some of them surpassingly elegant. Philadelphia was three hundred and thirty-six places of worship, the increase being among the smallest of any former city in the same length of time, and some of her church edifices are not surpassed in elegance by any in the country.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, sixteen years ago, had six ministers, thirty-eight congregations, and twelve thousand members, scattered through the States. Now it numbers sixty ministers, thirty-eight congregations, and thirty-five thousand communicants, extending through twelve States and territories. All the ministers except one serve from two to twelve congregations, and in some of their appointments they travel one hundred miles to carry the gospel to their people.

A call is made for a National Convention to be held at Pittsburgh on the 22d inst., composed of all American citizens who favor an amendment to the Constitution of the United States so that God shall be acknowledged as the author of national existence, and that this is a Christian nation. The call is deemed important at this time, as a conflict has commenced about the Bible, between those in the common schools, and the sentiments so long prevalent in our government to nothing more than a compact for secular, and not for moral ends.

A meeting is to be held to-morrow evening in the church on Washington square, of which Rev. Dr. Jenkins is pastor, to hear the statements of several gentlemen who have travelled extensively in the Territories west of the Rocky Mountains. They visited that region as a delegation from the American Tract Society, and upon their representations the Society will ask the co-operation of the churches there, has established an agency at San Francisco for the prosecution of the home missionary colporteurage among the Chinese and the Spanish-speaking Americans and population. The statements will doubtless be heard with interest.

The Pope has announced that he will hereafter decline to participate in the controversy respecting the dogma of papal infallibility. An official statement, just published, shows that the Ecumenical Council has 700 members. Since it assembled seven of its members have died, and four have left the city. A German paper, after referring to the menaces against the council by the establishing decrees contrary to modern ideas, says the bishops despise the menaces of governments which make laws at variance with the decrees of the Council, and have issued laws to be not observe them, and to exact obedience to such laws would be the greatest wrong. If governments separate the Church from the State they must expect terrible revolutions to overthrow them. France alone has been true to the Concordat, and the Council will bear the brunt.

The *Presbyterian*, in speaking of the need of a Presbyterian Hospital in this city, says: "The city certainly needs it. Does not the Presbyterian Hospital, in the relative proportion of our Irish working population which is not Catholic is Presbyterian. The communities rolls of a number of our Presbyterian churches will prove this conclusive. When these hard-working men and women meet with accidents or are made sick with sickness, if there are no means of procuring for admittance to the Pennsylvania or Episcopal Hospitals, they often suffer extra-ugly for lack of want of adequate medical skill, good nursing and nourishing food. Let the benevolent friends of that grand institution, the Episcopal Hospital, will show the large number of Presbyterian patients who are every year receiving its benefits. Let us have an institution of our own, and willing its walls hereafter return their kindness to our poor maimed and sick Presbyterians. Our church has not in Philadelphia a single denominational institution for charitable uses. "Let us arise and build." We are twenty thousand strong in our reunited church in this city. Let us have a Presbyterian Hospital adequate to express the gratitude and represent the wealth of such a body."

CHILDREN OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Annual Report of the Soldiers' Orphan Department.

The Annual Report of the Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphans, Colonel George F. Morland, has been submitted to the Governor. Colonel Morland and says:

"I present this, my third annual report of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools of Pennsylvania, with feelings of mingled gratitude and pleasure; gratitude to God that he has preserved and protected the three thousand nine hundred and eighty fatherless children that have been inmates of our schools and homes during the year, in a remarkable degree in life, health, and the enjoyment of the inestimable blessings of home, education and training a grateful Commonwealth has provided for them, and has given strength and courage for a year of toil to those entrusted with their guardianship, from your Excellency even to the humblest worker in the cause; and pleasure that so large a measure of substantial success has already attended our labors in the past and such good results are promised in the no distant future.

"Our schools have not been visited with any serious disease, and the astonishingly low rate of mortality reported last year—less than one death to every three hundred children in schools—has continued. Improved sanitary regulations, and more skilful culture of the school farms have multiplied home comforts and luxuries. Experienced teachers have rendered the government, training and instruction more effective in the cause; and pleasant