The Pittsburgh Gazette.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Few men have been more honored and more honorably employed than the late Hon. Walter Lowrie, the time-honored Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, who died recently in New York, at the advanced age of 83 years. His memory will long be fragrant, not only among the Presbyterians, but among other denominations. When the project was agitated to organize a separate Board for Foreign Missions, and the General Assembly was reluctant to assume the responsibility proposed, an organization was started called the "Western Foreign Missionary Society" in this city. For some time the Society was not encouraged, and the income was small. At this crisis Mr. Lowrie, who had been Secretary of the United States Senate for over ten years, resigned his place, and assumed the duties of Secretary of the new Foreign Missionary Society. The next General Assembly agreed to adopt the Society and its work. The New School party withdrew and are a separate organization until this day. The headquarters of the Society was afterwards located at New York, and its grand career is a matter of history. During this long period, Mr. Lowrie labored to promote this best of causes, until he reached his four score years, and then retired, leaving his son, Dr. J. C. Lowrie, to occupy the sphere he had so honorably filled for many years.

The demand for Bibles on the American and Foreign Bible Society, managed by the Baptists, appears to be greater than the ability to supply, at least the Society is pressed for the means of meeting the demands made upon them to supply foreign missionaries. The *Independent* thinks that the Board of the American Bible Society should participate in the honor of supplying these wants, and at the same time heal the breach in the ranks of American Protestantism, by a simple repeal of the resolution of 1836.

Quite a "breezy" time has occurred among the clergy of Cincinnati, growing out of the organization of an Evangelical Ministerial Association. A "liberal" minister attacked the body for raising a theological fence of the evangelical type as a condition of membership. This led them to define what they mean by the word "evangelical," namely, a a belief in the inspiration of the Scriptures, the Trinity of God, the fall of man, the vicarious atonement of Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Ghost. A minister withdrew from the Association—not because he objected to the articles themselves, but because, as a member of the Disciple Church, he was opposed to everything taking the form of a creed.

The *Presbyterian* notes the fact of the gathering of a congregation of two hundred in Chicago lately, to hear a sermon in Gailic. The psalms were sung in Gailic, being lined out for want of books. Public worship is now conducted in that city in Hebrew, French, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Bohemian, English, and Latin.

The midnight service at St. Albans Episcopal Church, New York City, on Christmas Eve, must have been a grand affair. The priests were robed, incense swung and banners borne in procession. On the day of Christmas it is said "High Mass" was celebrated. The music was Mozart's "Twelfth Mass." Father Morrill was vested in laced alb, amice, chasuble and maniple. Father Noyes was Deacon, and Father Mines sub-Deacon. The congregation was very large.

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, at Wilmington, Del., one of the most elegant and costliest edifices in the country, costing between two and three hundred thousand dollars, is enjoying a remarkable revival of religion. The work commenced in the Fall and has been steadily increasing in Interest. The last report states that there have been ninety conversions. This church is favored with the pastoral care of Rev. Alfred Cookman, formerly pastor of Christ M. E. Church in this city.

Bishop McIlvaine, of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, in answer to the letter of a member of that body as to the duty of *bowing* when the name of the Savior occurs in the creed, says it is not required in the formulas of the Church, and is no test of Churchmanship, but a step in the direction of ritualistic and superstitious usages that no rector has a right to exact of his congregation.

The time of holding the Pittsburgh M. E. Annual Conference, has been changed from March 24th to March 17th, by Bishop Ames, at the request of a number of the members of that body, who would be incommoded by the first named time, on account of it being so near the period for moving. The Conference meets at New Philadelphia, Ohio.

The Boston correspondent of the New York *Christian Advocate* reports that several of the once devoted followers of Theodore Parker have been converted and are now zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The *Church Monthly* argues "for the authority of the Church as the elect body of Christ, to act as the Mediator between God and her members in the forgiveness of sins." We leave our readers to judge of the Orthodoxy of these sentiments.

Rev. Addison Jones, who was ex-communicated by the Baptist Church at Santa Clara, for communing with a Presbyterian congregation, has gathered an independent congregation at Mayfield, which is likely to become a strong church of Open-communion Baptists.

The Methodist fair for "The Old People's Home" of that Church, realized about twenty-three thousand dollars. This is a remarkable success considering the stringency in monetary affairs. Mrs. Bishop Simpson is the President of this worthy institution.

Philip Embury, of New York, nephew of Rev. Philip Embury, pastor of the First Methodist Church in America, in 1766, recently gave his check for one thousand dollars in aid of the funds for the worn-out preachers of the New York Conferences of the M. E. Church.

Speaker Colfax, Vice President elect, during a late visit to Troy, N. Y., attended divine service in the afternoon at the Baptist Church. At the close of the of the sermon, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Baldwin, introduced him to the congregation, and at his request, Mr. Colfax made a few remarks. He spoke briefly, and bore testimony to the satisfaction and delight of pursuing a "Christian walk and conversation." He is a member, we believe, of the Reformed (Dutch) Church.

A communion service was held at Brooklyn on the first Sabbath of the month, at Dr. Buddington's church, Congregational, at which Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregationalist ministers participated. A powerful religious interest pervaded the large congregation.

The venerable Rev. Thomas Sproull, D. D., pastor of the Reformed (O. S.) Presbyterian Church in Allegheny City, has been relieved from the pastoral care of that congregation, that he may devote himself entirely to his duties as professor in the Theological Seminary. The doctor has long been in charge of this congregation. This people have just commenced to worship in the basement of their new edifice on Sandusky street.

Distressing Affair.

We learn that on Christmas Eve there was, at the Baptist Church in Sharpsburg, a school exhibition which passed off pleasantly. After that a number of young men repaired to a drinking saloon, and then followed one of the most awful, as well as remarkable and melancholy, affairs of which we have any knowledge. Joshua Sharp, one of the scholars of the school, who had acquitted himself with credit at the exhibition, about twenty years old, and Dick Taylor, but a few years older, were friends, but being excited by liquor became involved in a trifling difficulty. Angry words ensued. Sharp proposed to Tylor "if he wished to fight he would accommodate him." Each one took a pistol from two of the bystanders and went to the street, Sharp taking his position on one side of the street, and Taylor on the other, about one hundred feet apart. Sharp said, "Are you ready?" Taylor replied, "I am." They then began to fire. Sharp's pistol missed fire the first time, giving Taylor the first fire, which was harmless. They then fired about the same time, and both were instantly killed. Sharp was shot through the head, and Taylor through the heart. This occurred at about twelve o'clock at night, and on Saturday the two who had been friends until a moment before they fought were followed to the same graveyard by their sorrowing parents and many friends. A little more than a year ago young Smothers was shot and killed within one hundred yards of the scene of the above sad affair. Both of these and many other crimes are traceable to the use of liquor, and still those who have the power to do so continue to license liquor saloons without discrimination, thereby giving countenance to all the evils that necessarily follow.—*Maysville Eagle, 31st.*

The Effect of Rowing on the Circulation.

During the past summer Dr. Fraser, of the University of Edinburgh, undertook a number of observations on the effect of rowing on the circulation, making experiments upon the crew of one of the University boats. The sphygmograph was used automatically to record the pulse movements, and apart from any intrinsic importance, his observations may prove, in the opinion of the *British Medical Journal*, of some interest in relation to recent discussions on the probably injurious effects of rowing exercise. The observations were prolonged throughout the greater part of the period of training. The changes that were produced were of an extremely uniform character, not only on the different occasions, but also with the different members of the crew. He presents, in Humphry's *Journal of Physiology*, wood cuts of the pulse-tracings of the stroke oar. The tracings obtained all show that an extremely large quantity of blood is being circulated with great rapidity. It is obvious that, in the great majority of functional organic diseases of the vascular system, such a position could not possibly be maintained.

The author concludes that the subjects of these diseases are, therefore, completely incapacitated for violent rowing exercises, and cannot be in a position to be injured by it. It is possible that the presence of incipient forms of disease of the vascular system might altogether prevent such exercise from being undertaken; but he believes that all such diseases may be detected by the use of the sphygmograph in time to prevent further mischief; the examination being made immediately before the boat is entered, and a few minutes after a moderate pull has been indulged in.

Natural Gas.

In Erie, Pa., there is a large manufactory of workers in brass where the machinery is driven and the buildings lighted by the gas from an uproductive oil well. For more than two years the proprietors have brought the gas by means of three-inch iron pipe from an unsuccessful oil well one thousand two hundred feet distant from the manufactory, and used it as fuel for their boilers and as lights for their works. The flow, it is stated, has never stopped, never changed in amount of pressure; the gas is of good lighting properties, and when at night or on Sunday the works are stopped, the gas is still supplied and at night is lighted at the mouth of the pipe of two or two and a half inches inches in diameter, situated near the top of the main building. This light is sufficient to illuminate several streets and squares in every direction, and the escaping gas makes a noise as of escaping steam, that may be heard at a long distance, while the gas flame is not less than four or five feet high. These facts have been cited as strong proofs of the theory that the interior of the earth is filled with condensed gas, under a heavy pressure. The solid crust of the earth, it is estimated, is thirty miles thick, or one two hundred and sixtieth part of the diameter. As the average rate of increased temperature is one degree Farenheit for every foot of descent beneath the surface of the earth, a point would soon be reached where the most refractory metals can only exist in the form of vapor. Hence, the globe may be considered a vast gas holder.

THE Venango *Spectator* says that on the 16th inst. there met at the Lake House, Stoneboro', seven daughters and one son of Joel and Sioma Sage. The eldest of these is sixty and the youngest forty-three years old. They are all in vigorous health, and their united weight was 1,344 pounds—an average of 168 pounds each. This average—seven of the eight been ladies—we think speaks well for Venango county. Joel Sage, the father of the above, came to Venango county in 1807, and settled on what is now called Sage Run, near the present site of Venango City. The old gentleman and his wife died within a short time of each other, some four or five years since. Their descendants in a direct line number one hundred and thirty-four persons, of whom one hundred and two are now living.

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