

# THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER AND ADVOCATE.

Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, NOVEMBER 29, 1856.

TERMS.—\$1.00, in Advance; or in Clubs, \$1.175. See Prospective on This Page. **RENEWALS** should be prompt; a little while before the year expires, that we may make full arrangements for a steady supply.

**THE RED WRAPPER** indicates that we desire a renewal. If, therefore, the name of *The Banner*, the *new name*, is repeated, we hope our friends will still not forget us.

**REMITTANCES**.—Send payment by safe hands, when convenient. Or send by mail, enclosing with ordinary care, and troubling nobody with a knowledge of what you are doing. For a large amount send a Draft, or large money-orders or two papers, and Gold or small notes.

**TO MAKE CHANGE**. Send postage stamps, or better still, send for more paper) say \$3 for Seven numbers, or \$1 for Thirty-three numbers.

**DIRECT** all Letters and Communications to REV. DAVID MCKINNEY, Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE PRESBYTERY of NORTH MISSISSIPPI has been constituted out of part of the Presbytery of Chickasaw.

A REVIVAL, as stated by the *Presbyterian Herald*, is in progress in Perryville, Ky. Twenty-nine persons had expressed a hope in Christ Jesus. The Female School shared largely in the gracious work.

DANCING.—The article on our first page, furnished from the Presbytery of Bedford, discussing this subject, is excellent, and in season. Read it; then search other amusements for the long evenings, and other joys for the approaching holidays.

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.—The Synod of Georgia have accepted the resignation of Dr. Palmer, who accedes to the call to New Orleans, and have also ratified the election, by the Synod of South Carolina, of Dr. J. B. Adger to the vacated Chair in the Seminary at Columbia.

REV. DR. SCOTT, of San Francisco, has met with violent opponents, in some friends of the "Vigilance Committee." But he is enabled to maintain his position, unharmed; and is cheered by a full church—a evidence that it is possible for a good man to maintain his sentiments firmly, even in times of great excitement; and also, that the Vigilance Committee are not an unprincipled mob.

**The Morning Star.**  
This is the name of a missionary ship, built by the A. B. C. F. M., at Chelsea, recently launched. She is a vessel of one hundred and fifty tons, and constructed for swift sailing. Her cost was \$12,000, which the children in Sabbath Schools are engaged in raising. She will shortly sail for the Pacific Ocean, and will carry out Mr. Bingham, with his wife, son of our former missionary Bingham, at the Sandwich Islands, to the new Mission of the Board in Micronesia. Her captain and both mates are religious men. From three to four thousand people were at the launch. The *Puritan Recorder* describes the occasion as being one of much interest.

**Thanksgiving.**  
Thursday, the 20th inst., was observed in our city, very generally: There was, extensively, a cessation from ordinary labor. Stores, shops, and factories, were closed. The day was pleasant, and thousands turned out, clad in their best robes, and with happy countenances. Many of the churches were opened, and were well filled. We heard one excellent sermon; and heard of others, preached. A day thus spent, in gratefully contemplating the rich blessings we enjoy, religious and secular, personal and national; our giving of thanks being accompanied with instruction and prayer; cannot but be an appropriate service to God, and highly beneficial to the people.

**Obituaries.**  
There seems to be a very general effort on the part of the religious press to abbreviate obituary notices. This proceeds not from any peculiar hardness of heart in the fraternity. They are as sympathizing as any other class of people. They would do as much as any others, to mitigate the sorrows of the bereaved living, and to perpetuate the fame of the worthy dead. They are influenced by two considerations, which their position enables them more fully to appreciate. They wish to fill their reading columns only with that which is instructive; and they desire to relieve from perpetual complainings on the part of their readers about the length of those notices.

What shall they do? To *refuse* obituary notices utterly, would seem very ungracious, and very wrong; and to affix a limit to the length would be very difficult. The secular press, generally, takes an effective measure, of tolerably easy application, to procure relief—it will insert so far as paid for. Shall the religious press resort to the same measure? The thing is talked of, and is, by a few, commenced. The *Episcopal Recorder* keeps as a standing notice;

"OBITUARIES, AND NOTICES OF VESTRY PROCEEDINGS will be charged six cents per line."

The *Presbyterian Herald* has adopted the principle of requiring payment. The *Presbyterian* speaks of it as a plan into which all the religious papers will likely be forced.

The *Southern Presbyterian* concurs fully with its contemporaries as to the propriety of such reform as that proposed.

What say our subscribers? We shall fill our columns with something; and it costs us no more to set up an obituary than it would to set up any other matter, *in the same type*. It is true that to set up a column of obituaries, in the type we use for that purpose, costs us nearly three times as much as a column of doctrinal or practical matter in the type on our first page. We submit to this for the sake of saving room, and should bear it uncomplainingly if our reader would not complain of us. What now shall we do? Shall we set up the rule above quoted, and abide by it?

## Annals of the American Pulpit.\*

The Christian public have been aware, for a length of time past, that the Rev. Dr. Sprague, of Albany, has been industriously engaged in preparing a work, of a comprehensive character, in which a full and faithful portraiture should be given of the most remarkable American Divines. Two volumes of this vast undertaking are now before us, containing some three hundred and forty-six biographies, and occupying about fifteen hundred and fifty pages. Our readers will perceive that this great literary achievement is a work requiring no ordinary amount of labor; and this conviction will be deepened, when the character of the work, and the sources from which it has been derived, come to be known. These two volumes are entirely occupied with the memoirs of *Trinitarian Congregationalists*; and when it is considered that relatives and friends had to be consulted, for information respecting facts which were treasured, or rather hidden away in old family papers, or in the memories of aged persons, just ready to pass from this earthly scene—that the cost of the correspondence required for collecting the substance of these two volumes, amounted, mostly at three cents a letter, to upwards of a thousand dollars for the postage alone—the magnitude of the undertaking will stand out in most formidable proportions.

We are glad that this great literary toll has been undertaken by Dr. Sprague. For its accomplishment, he is endowed with rare and singular ability. The preparation of these volumes would alone have furnished ample employment for men of ordinary physical strength and mental activity. There are, indeed, few in the ministry of any Church, and there are few in any age, who could undertake the amount of pastoral visitation, attendance on the sick and afflicted, as well as prepare, with regularity, for the ministrations of the Sabbath, as Dr. Sprague is.

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