Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, MARCH 7, 1857.

TERMS. - \$1.50, in advance; or in Clubs, bers, \$1.75. See Prospectus, on Third Page. RENEWALS should be prompt; a little while before the year expires, that we may and means. THE RED WRAPPER indicates that we desire a renewal. If, however, in the haste of mailing, this signal should be omitted, we riends will still not forget us. REMITTANCES.—Send payment by safe hands, when convenient. Or, send by mails enclosing with ordinary care, and troubling

nobody with a knowledge of what you are doing. For a large amount, send a Draft, or large notes. For one or two papers, send Gold

TO MAKE CHANGE, Send postage stam or better still, send for more papers; say \$3 for Seventy numbers, or \$1 for Thirty-three

DIRECT all Letters and Communication to REV. DAVID McKINNEY. Pittsburgh

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of Washing ton College stands adjourned to meet in 2 o'clock P. M.

A. W. ATCHESON, Secretary.

RECEIPTS FOR THE BOARDS .- Mr. Wil liams and Mr. Childs, receiving agents for Missions, &c., have furnished their statements for last month, but the press of matter on hand defers their publication till next

Donations to Danville.

The Presbyterian Herald tells us of a egacy of twenty to thirty thousand dollars, to be less spoken of, since the churches have loft to the Seminary of Danville, by Judge shown such a sinful penuriousness in conten thousand acres of Arkansas land, worth dence for the latter is given as statements "floating through our secular exchanges." We shall be pleased to learn that the Semifunds, than in promoting Christian education.

Revivals/

The church of LITTLE AUGWICK, at Shade Gap, Pa., has been enjoying a very gracious visit from the Lord. It was granted under the ministrations of neighboring laborers, the pastor, Rev. Wm. S. Morrison, being from home, on account of ill-health. There were fifty-two inquirers. More particulars will be given next week.

JERSEY SHORE, PA.—The church at this place, under the pastoral care of Rev. Joseph Stevens, is enjoying a precious revival. There have been about a hundred on a lease from a Chinese landlord, but had been rendered suitable for the residence of foreigners after the way of life, of whom about fifty had obtained a hope and entered the communion of the church. May they all, and many others, their associates till lately in sin, find a joyous home with the

CAMBRIDGE, OHIO.—See, in another column, a notice of God's grace to his pecple, in the outpouring of his Spirit, and in presenting to his service a new house. where to meet his worshippers.

Political Corruption.

The readiness with which men-even those who in general appear to be honestwill violate all the principles of morality, in their political transactions, is adapted to amaze us. How is it possible! Congressmen, State Legislators, Judges, Executive officers, down to stations the very least remunerative, seem to be infected, as though the very atmosphere of politics were corrupting, and even the look of desire toward official position were tainting to a degree that few could endure, without being conta-

The late election, in Philadelphia, is, we fear, no more than a bad specimen, and not the worst, either, of what occurs at the very fountain head of Republican freedom -the choice of rulers by the suffrages of the people. Transactions at that election have been subjected to legal investigation, and the results are humiliating and alarming. The Presbyterian says:

We have seldom been more sensibly impressed with the depravity of the human heart than by a persual of the evidence which, for a week or two past, has been elicited in one of the Philadelphia Music books. In our Literary Notices, from Courts, in the investigation of alleged election frauds. Not in a single case merely, but in a multitude of cases, it has been made to appear and character. We do not ask the Board that false naturalization papers, were manufactured; tax receipts forged; false oaths taken; ictitions votes received and recorded; mere the time is not far distant, when we shall boys, contrary to law, admitted to vote; double and tripple votes given by the same person, and even the names of dead men recorded as voting. To all this the officers having charge of the polls, a Commentary, especially on the New Tesand sworn to perform their duty faithfully, must have been privy, if, indeed, they were not active in bringing about this state of things

The things noted are certainly an evidence of the deep depravity of the human heart; could readily furnish. These are a few of but why does depravity break out so violently the desiderata, at present. in connexion with the particular subject of Donations from January 15th to February 18th politics? Is there any defect on the part of the teachers of morality? Are God, and his Word, and moral responsibility excluded entirely from political affairs? In excluding the Pulpit, and the Christian ministry, and the Religious press-as they are most justly excluded—from party and partizan politics, have these conservators of the purity of the social system ceased, in their instructions, to apply moral principles to this particular branch of human interests?

The subject is worthy of being investigated. The pulpit has rightfully to do with every thing that man does, in that aspect in which God will judge his conduct-in the moral aspect, as under the moral law.u.Are ministers faithful in their own proper sphere? And do Christian men study, in political affairs, to do "all to the glory of God?"; auspices, it is proposed to erect a church in the Let the man who would cherish the Christian's hope, be a Christian, a man of principle, everywhere. Christianity must have more influence in our social affairs, governmental as well as those relative to trade portion of the seats 'free.' and the amenities of life, or we are a doomed This we regard as quite an improvement

Home and Foreign Record.

The March number of our official Church Journal, is before us. We always look for it with interest, that we may learn what our Agencies are doing, and what they propose to do, and how zealous the pastors and congregations may be in striving to furnish them with the capability of doing, by men DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

The Record before us, presents very little relative to this important Board. An interesting letter from Mr. Wells, Dubuque, is the only missionary intelligence.

The leading thought urged by the Secretary, in the February number, was the making of REPORTS by the Missionaries. This duty should be promptly and fully discharged, and we commend the officer who requires

it. The benefit of such Reports consists, not merely in the full statement of facts and doings, by which we become acquainted with the value of the Scheme, but also in impelling the workmen to be more diligent. more observant of the influence for good of Washington on Tuesday, the 24th inst., at the means they use, and hence more zealous to improve and more useful in their work. A thorough system of reporting, will ever lead to systematic operations and zealous industry.

RECEIPTS in January, at Philadelphia, \$5,613; at Pittsburgh, \$560; at Louisville, \$1,188. There were received in December, at Philadelphia, \$10,578; at Pittsburgh, \$325; at Louis-ville, \$1,282

EDUCATION. The need of Funds is the absorbing theme in this Board. It used to be, the need of men. and this need is still great, even more so than formerly ; but this defect has come

H. P. Brodnax, of Russelville, Ky.; and of tributing to the sustenance of the comparatively few who are willing to consecrate fifty thousand dollars, donated by E. H. | themselves to the ministry. We have just Porter, Esq., of Memphis, Tenn. The evi- been devoting a day to instruction and prayer, on this subject. May the Lord cause his churches to feel the influence of the instruction, and make them to act in accornary will receive both these sums. Men who dance with the petitions they have presented. love the Church, and love their country, can- It is not by miracle that he answers prayer, not easily find a better use for their surplus but by blessing his appointed means, to the accomplishing of their appropriate end.

RECEIPTS in January, at Philadelphia, \$2,238; at Pittsburgh, \$207; at Louisville, \$39. In December there were received, at Philadelphia, \$5,038; at Pittsburgh, \$306; at Louisville, FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Letters from India, Siam, and the Indian Tribes, represent the missionary operations as about in their usual state. The Chinese Missions are thus spoken of:

Our letters are dated at Canton, November 13; Shanghai, November 5; Ningpo, November 6. The destruction of the mission property at Canton is one of the immediate results of the outbreak between the British and the Chinese at the consumed by fire, communicated from the burning of one of the gates of the city. The furniture, books, and other personal property of the missionaries, as well as books and other things belonging to the Board, were all destroyed. The ecuniary loss is considerable, probably between

\$4,000 and \$5,000; but the real loss is much more serious, as many of the books, and especially of the manuscripts, were of such a nature as cannot easily be replaced; while the schools, hospital and chapel services were all broken up, and the missionary work at Canton entirely auspanded.
The bestleron had removed to Macao, where they had rented a house, as it was considered quite

uncertain when they would be able to resume their labors at Canton. They hoped to remove some of their scholars to Macao. From the missions at the North, we have also discouraging news, though of a different kind—the failure health and probable return of several members of the missions at Shanghai and Ningpo to this country. It was expected that Mr. Wright, Dr. and Mrs. McCartee, and Mrs. Nevius would soon embark on their voyage home. Mr. and Mrs. Nevius have consented to this temporary separation, under a deep sense of duty in view of the missionary work at their station, but yet feeling most keenly the trial. She will have the company, however, of her missionary friends on board the ship; and it is hoped the voyage will remove the bronchial complaint, so that she may soon go back to Ning-po; otherwise, Mr. Nevius will return to this country. Dr. McCartee's health has been so much impaired by his long residence in China, that a visit to this country could not longer be deferred with safety. Mr. Wright's health continues to be feeble, yet he was able to do some work, and would not leave his station if he could remain; his return was not fully decided on, though his physician advised it. These disthe Church, perhaps to rebuke her past lukewarmness, and at any rate to call forth her prayers.

In the end it will appear, we trust, that God's purpose in them is a gracious one to the poor Chinese. May the people of God be led to eel a deeper concern for their salvation! DONATIONS to the Board in January, \$22,285; in

PUBLICATION. This Board is devoting its energies, with commendable alacrity, to the improvement of its stock of Juvenile books, including week to week, may be found their names to do everything in a day, but trust that be furnished with a next, cheap, and good edition of our Confession of Faith; also, with -tament, adapted to our Church's wants; and with a truly excellent Reference Bible, such as some industry and a sound judgmen

\$1,457; proceeds of SALES in January, \$2,031

CHURCH EXTENSION. The one page in the Record, allotted to this new but important Agency, is well fill ed. We wish every Christian would give something—it may be only a little—but giv something to build houses where God an men may meet, to his praise and their in struction, and regeneration, and growth, an

RECEIPTS in January, at St. Louis, \$451; at Phil. adelphia, \$801; at Pittsburgh, \$172.

An Improvement.

A new Episcopal church has been or ganized in Philadelphia, to be under the pastoral charge of Rev. Dudley A. Tyng. notice of the projected building says:

"To afford permanent accommodations to auterprise commenced under such favorab Western part of the city, capable of comfortable seating about three thousand persons. No attempt will be made at architectural display, an

in church architecture—provided only that

BANNER AND ADVOCATE. PRESBYTERIAN

lways, good taste and arrangements for sum tively taken place. comfort; excluding meanness and parsipoor and the rich would meet together in true Christian fellowship. We are not so much in favor of having a class of "free" seats, but neither should there be "purchased" seats. The building should be a free-will offering to the Lord, and the expense of maintaining the worship should be duly pportioned, that each might give as the Lord bad prospered him. A convenient way, and liable to perhaps as few objections as any o her which is practicable in our imerfect state, is, to have the necessary annual cost of maintaining the ordinances, assessed on the seats: the amount varying from a pretty high rate on a few, to a very ow rate on many.

For the Presbyterian Banner and Advocate. The Princeton Review on Infant Membership.

We give a large portion of our editorial olumns this week, to an article of vital imortance. Does our correspondent rightly nderstand the reviewer? If he does, an rror has been broached in a high quarter. not, there is error in a quarter still higher error in the Church, in the practical reatment and woful neglect of her baptized children. Discussion is needed. It may ead to an awakening.—ED.]

MR. EDITOR: -The importance of this subject, and the idea of the Church in the article before us. mbers of the visible Church, as "born within s pale," but are presumed to be "members of aught to regard themselves-" receiving Christian cognition" as such, &c.; p. 22. That their status of Church membership is quite the same with that of any professing Christian, that is they are to be presumed to be regenerated memheir conduct the contrary; p. 22. And this is listinctly argued on the principle that "membership in the visible Church is founded on a presumptive membership in the invisible, (the case with adults) until its subjects, by acts incomnatible therewith, prove the contrary. "The ase is precisely analogous to that of adult pro-

fessors:" p. 23. But, 1. Can that be fairly said to be the preimption of the case which so often is disproved

2. If they are presumed to be regenerate, when and how did they become so? By Baptism? This leads to baptismal regeneration. however, turns out to be the author's own view; born sinners, though of believing parents, the This is not held by the writer. But holding the that is, whoever are presumptively regenerate whole presumption is, that they continue so, unor might have to accept it as substantially inrolved.

8. What is to be the effect of teaching our children that they are presumed to be members of entitled to every privilege, and bound to every the invisible Church, as truly as their Christian office of obedience, &c., which are appropriate to parents, or any other member, who is presumed to be regenerate? Will they not infer: "We have Church;" p, 22. The author's position is held to be Abraham to our father," and spurn the thought | supported, (1.) "By the admitted fact that the of any necessity for a change of heart? Is not children or God's people, who die in intancy, are this Judaizing? Is not the whole tendency of members of the Church invisible, and heirs of this doctrine to bring them to the Lord's table salvation." But if this argument means anywith no other qualifications but a knowledge of thing, it proves too much. It proves that, inasthe Catechism and Creed, and a decent ex- much as all the children of believing parents, if erior? The animus of the article to this effect is they die in infancy, are sayed, (heirs of salvaobservable; p. 16. "Our theology has tasked, tion,) therefore, all the children of believing and often exhausted itself on topics subjective, realive to regeneration and conversion, while it has peen more meagre in reference to the objective, them, who do not come to live as Christians in Divine and heavenly truths, which are the ali adult life, must have fallen from grace. And ment of faith and love." Have we then, gone too far in questions of regeneration and conversion, and does the article propose to find out an easier baptismal regeneration—or an infant measure of way, relaxing these vigorous requirements? Hence the training here held to be due to our children, is to educate them to this idea, that hey are the children of God, and not "by nature children of wrath," (p. 24;) "to think, feel and eges as members of the family of God, and in Idea of the Church to this same effect, is strikingy presented on p. 22. "That the true Church of God is made up of those whom he has purchased with his own blood, and that those who, to the eye of a judicious charity, are of this number, are visibly of this Church, i. e. are the Church thing from the presumption of their being memvisible." Are then, all those who are in charity, reckoned to be regenerate; to be set down as

But further on this point, it is held, (2) "those a change of age. ncapable of such credible profession may be visibly members of the Church by virtue of God's evealed Covenant, or promise to be their God." But is this promise so absolute, that we are warranted to draw from it the conclusion, or even believers are members of the invisible Church? Is it not rather that these infants are born members of the visible Church, and are infant members of the outward body, with promises of God specially aade to them, which are to be regarded as their eculiar inheritance and Christian birthright; romises of God's blessing on their Christian training; of God's special favor to them, hearing saving result made to depend so much on the make our presumption also dependent greatly on grace promised is not only offered, but really exhibited and conferred by the Holy Ghost to such (whether of age or infants) as that grace belongeth unto according to the counsel of God's will, in his appointed time." Confess., Ch. 28.

The question at issue as to the status, is quite baptismal regeneration." It is the question

the size and arrrangements shall be such staught and trained with a view to their becoming sober and steady, and to have sufficient knownthat all may sit comfortably, and hear dis- so? Now, if we are to hold them, according to EDGE TO DISCIENT THE LORD'S BODY, (not Catetiactly. Splendid churches—"first class," the whole presumption of the case, "children of chetical knowledge alone; but experimental, of if you please so to call them—nurture pride, shall not teach them to seek a change of heart, for ought to be informed it is their duty and rivicherish alienations, exclude the poor, and that is already presumed. We shall not need to lege to come to the Lord's Supper." Does the prejudice the masses. There should be, pray for their regeneration, for that has pre- Directory presume any such thing as that they

The writer of this article does not tell us mony; but things should be so that the whether this "presumptive membership" of the trary; and direct to such hopeful training as Church invisible, has come from the baptism, or from the parental connexion. If, from the baptism, then, as we have seen, it infers baptismal regeneration, or leads directly to it. But this is not taught. But a doctrine more mischievous than that of baptismal regeneration, if we understand it, is to be inferred, for then they are born dren of wrath, even as others." But does not God's promise to our children in their highly favored position, call for the parental fidelity in regard to the ordinance, and in regard to the training which the ordinance engages. "I know Abraham that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to dorjustice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham all that he hath promised." We: find on p. 7; a very acceptable statement of the status, though not at all in keeping with what follows:

"These covenants and promises are, that God will be their God; that he will so put the blessings of salvation within their reach or possession, that they cannot fail of them, without first spurning and disowning their birthright.". But this correct idea of the status at once becomes confused with the other, and erroneous one that we have noticed, adding, "these children are declared 'holy,' which implies that in their visible But, whether there be in the Review or standing and external treatment, they are to be accounted such, till they prove themselves otherwise, and that hence they are to be baptized." Does the term "holy" here, mean spiritually holy, as the author plainly understands that they are to be accounted, or does it mean federally "holy" as opposed to the contrasted term "unclean?" The confusion appears again on pp. 23, 24, "All this imports nothing less than a taken in connexion with the source from which presumption that the children of the Church ARE, emanates, make it worthy the special attention AND WILL PROVE TO BE THE REAL CHILDREN OF f your readers. If I understand the doctrine, it | Gop, until they dispel that presumption by their s that the children of believers are not merely own misconduct." But on p. 24, it would seem the presumption is, that the things sealed WILL also be bestowed and accepted-till the contrary is he invisible Church," and are so to be treated, and shown—this is a different thing. How does this future tense "will be," agree with the present, "ARE, and will prove to be?" And is not the " presumption," after all, this, that God will bestow the blessings, not that they have been bestowed and that the children ARE regenerate-members of the bers of the invisible Church, until they prove by invisible Church? Of course it is not supposed that the doctrine of "falling from grace" can be held by the author, as accounting for the frequent disproof of his presumption about the

> including Romanists, and Romanizing Protestants," stated as follows: "Whoever is regenerate, and baptized, is a member of the Church, visible and invisible, to all intents and purposes. He is to be accounted and dealt with as such. He is fully bound to every duty, and entitled to every privilege in the house of God, of which his age and circumstances will admit." Strikingly like this, baptized, are members of the Church, visible and invisible, to all intents and purposes. "They are to be accounted and dealt with as such. They are their age and circumstances, as members of the parents must be members of the invisible Church i. e., regenerate. But, if this be so, many of this is precisely the shift to which "the ritual school" are driven, to avoid the absurdity of stances." her Noneed

spiritual membership of infants.

On p. 3 we find "the view of the ritual school,

The author, in some passages interspersed throughout the article, holds very correct views. But they are mixed throughout with very crude act as the children of God "-" to bring them to a and incorrect notions, as we think, as though he miciousness of their rank, obligations and privi- were writing on both sides of the question. We noulding their habits of thinking, feeling, and ship, that they are "children of the Church," acting into harmony therewith," (p. 25.). The and with parental fidelity may be expected certainly to become "the children of God." We are willing to hold that in their minority they are regarded and treated in their parents, and that where they die in infancy they are saved in the covenant relation. But this is quite a different bers of the Church invisible, the same as in the case of any Christian, i. e., regenerated. The members of the visible Church? Where, then, is presumption of this would lead in the wrong dithe outward pale? Where are the ordinances? rection, both in case of the child and of the Does "a judicious charity" then constitute men | parent; leading both to settle down upon the idea members of the visible Church? This does, in- of the status, as presumptively safe already, indeed, ignore the visibility with a witness. And stead of leading to most hopeful and earnest lahow are church members unmade by this same | bor, to that end. Our Standards declare that idea of the Church? We are told if this pro-fession of religion (adult) he accompanied by Church." This all good Presbyterians admit. eresies or scandals, which render the profession This article holds that they are born in the invisi. of it unworthy of belief, then it does not render ble Church—that is, if these professing parents those who made it, visible Christians, or visibly mem- are believers. And to evade the natural consebers of the Church of "God." Is then the visible | quence of administering to them the Lord's Supmembership, that is, the connexion with the per, it is held (p. 22,) that they are members of risible Church, unmade by heresy or scandal, the invisible Church only after their measure—just without any formal action of the Church? Then, as they are members of "civil society" without indeed, Church membership is made by judicious | yet being entitled to vote! Of course, then, they charity or unmade by scandal, without any come to the full privileges of adult membership Church pale, or Church ordinance, and the Idea by oge, and come to the Lord's table at maturity,

f the Church is reduced to the Church as an Idea! | not because of a change of heart, but because of This is the naturalism of this doctrine. The writer takes the declaration of our Confession, that they are born within the visible pale, as presupposing that they are born within the invisible pale ! p. 22. That is, their visible membership the "presumption," that all the children of implies, presumptively, their invisible membership; and they are baptized because they are presumed to be regenerate; or, rather, holy by birthnot federally holy, but members of the invisible Church! Instead of teaching baptismal regeneration, it would seem, at times, that the Church visible, and its ordinances, do not enter into the writer's account; and the idea of the Church is, therefore, that of the Church invisible, which their early cry to him, and specially ready to be is quite a different "idea" from that found in ought and found of them? And is not the our Standards, on this subject. "Our Directory" (it is said, p. 23,) "implies still more clearly the parental fidelity during the minor years, as to same presumption, in regard to the baptized, in asserting it to be their duty and privilege, on ly respected by her teachers and fellow students their faithfulness. (See the Doctrine of our reaching the years of discretion, to come to the Church.) "By the right use of this ordinance, the Lord's table, unless by heresy, ignorance, or scandal, they rebut this presumption." But look at the Presbyterian Church, and died in the triat the paragraph. "Children born within the Him who said "let thy widows trust in me." God in baptism, are under the inspection and Almost her last words were, "O! Jesus is my government of the Church, and are to be taught to read, and repeat the Catechism, the Apostle's even anto the dying moment, to the truthfulness the same as in the controversy with advocates of Creed, and the Lord's Prayer; to pray, and to of the Christian Religion, which alone can qualify whether the infants referred to, are actually rewhether the infants referred to, are actually retion, if they be free from scandal, and appear

whether the infants referred to, are actually retion, if they be free from scandal, and appear

Mt. Union Seminary, Feb. 28d, 1857.

riages through ignorance or inadvertance,
while the Romish Priests utterly refuse to
interesting
comply with the Statute in this respect, on

Sincerely, yours, abhor sin; to fear God, and obey the Lord Jesus us to live rationally, and to die in the hope of a better resurrection.

are members of the invisible Church by birth? It presumes no such thing, but rather the conshall make them to become such with God's promise t blessing. To this end it regards the seal of his covenant, as the precious encouragement of the believer, confirming to us his promise as good for our c ildren, if we be faithful and believing; and regarding their position in the bosom of the visible Church, as of the highest benefit for this "children of God," and are not "by nature chil- end, and warning us against any such "presumption" as that they are born members of the in visible Church, it warrants us to expect that God will bless our Christian training, and even the ordinance, if he please, for their salvation.

> The doctrine in question is not that which was taught by Doctor Miller. (See Miller on Pres. and Baptism, p. 45.) And we are constrained to say, that it makes out the status of the infants of believers to be the very same as is held by the "baptismal regeneration" school, with their practical proviso for the presumption of the case, or a falling from grace. Only, instead of tracing this presumed membership of the invisible Church to the ordinance of baptism, it broaches a still more un-Scriptural and absurd theory, that comes by birth. What next? A. B.

P. S .- Since writing the above, we have noticed the inquiry of "M.," in the Presbyterian of Feb. 21st, expressing the same surprise as our se ves, at the doctrine of the article. And in reply to this inquiry, we have just read in the Presbuterian of Feb. 28th, a most remarkable 'Explanation," by the AUTHOR. It shows a wonderful facility of taking both sides of a question, or else of writing with astonishing ambiguity. Surely it is not thus that we are to get light on so great a subject, when a long article is needed to expound the terms of the first, so that they shall not convey to the common reader, a doctrine the very opposite to that which the writer holds. But this attempt is utterly futile to explain away the position of the first article. In the Review, (p. 28, last line,) he says, "All this imports nothing less than a presumption, that the children of the Church ARE, AND will prove to be, the real children of God; until they dispel that presumption by their own misconduct. The "Explana tion" says, at the outset, that "the article in the Review founds the membership of the children of Christians in the visible Church, on the preumption that they are, or will prove to be the children of God, or members of the invisible Church." Are these positions identical? Can the author have failed to apprehend the difference? Can he have held both? He probably holds to the latter. But it is perfectly plain that he wrote his article to establish the former—contrary to the true doctrine of the Scripture, and of our Standards, and to the plain facts of the

II. No one doubts that Infants are capable of Regeneration. But the author's grievous error is in presuming them to be regenerate by virtue of their believing parentage; in holding "the presumption that they ARE, and will PROVE themselves to BE the real children of God." "M." drew a correct inference; because, if they were their regeneration, therefore, we labor and pray, present them in baptism, and plead God's promises to "the children of the covenant," in the hope, all along, that they will become regeneratebut not in the "presumption that they ARE, AND will prove themselves so." We do not hold them as aliens, but as in the pale of the visible Church, with special advantages and obligations. III. The burden of the explanation, however, turns upon the author's "logical" use of

the terms, "presumptive," and "presumption." in his usage, the word "presumption" is not correspondent in meaning with the verb "presume," that is, the presuming of anything does not amount to the same thing as the presumption of t; and that is, we are to understand by his presumption, (in this case,) only "a charitable judgnent." But how much does this mend the doctrine of the Review? which is "nothing less than the presumption, (or "charitable judgment,") that the children of the Church ARE, AND WILL PROVE TO BE, the real children of God?" This s not merely the slip of a conjunction "and" for "or;" for herein lies the very point of the first article. He quotes Dr. Watts, (p. 28, line four,) to show that by "presumption," he means supposition." Is this, then, we ask, the " preumption" or "supposition," that these children ARE, and will prove to be, regenerate. That the author has seen his mistake, and would explain it away, is apparent in the labored exposition of the anguage used; wherein the doctrine of the Review is, if possible, to be explained away with the terms. Now, "the presumption" means "such a charitable judgment as shall lead us externally to treat and deal with them, as if, upon the proper discharge of parental vows in due Christian training and nurture, THEY WOULD, THROUGH GRACE, CONform to the principles of Christianity, till the contrary appears:" This is certainly a very different doctrine from that maintained in the Review, which makes the presumption of membership in the invisible Church quite the same, in case of these infants, as of professing adults; that is, of course, a presumption, ("a charitable judgment,") that they are recenterate until they show, by their misconduct, the contrary. And, strangely enough, this is re-asserted in the Explana-

Query-What is the status of the "author," on the status of these infants?

For the Presbyterian Banner and Advocate. Testimonial. MR. EDITOR: -On the occasion of the recent death of a student of the Mt. Union Seminary,

the Professors and students appointed a Commit-tee to draft the following Obituary notice, for the

columns of your paper:

DIED—On February 1st, 1857, of consumption, at the residence of her father, Mr. Moore, of Milton, Mahoning County, Ohio, Mrs. Mary J. Mrs. Thurston was the wife of Mr. Thur who also deceased some two years ago. She had been married only eight months, when she was left a sorrowing widow. Thus thrown upon her own resources, she diligently and conscient sought an education, so that she might not only maintain herself comfortably and honorably by eaching, but also be the more useful to the youth, that interesting portion of society, who are, the hope of our country, the Church, and the world. She succeeded in the pursuit of science, in a degree satisfactory to her teachers and friends; and ncouraging to those of limited means or of trembling heart; and had successfully discharged the duties of a teacher, when disease of the lungs consummated its insidious ravages, and her regenerated spirit, long since dedicated to the Lord, was called home to a reunion with kindred hearts gone before.

who now deeply sympathize with her friends and relatives in their bereavement. She was a faithful and consistent member of

friend !" Thus another accredited witness has testified. For the Presbyterian Banner and Advocate.

Revival at Cambridge, Ohio. DR. M'KINNEY: The Presbyterian Church of Cambridge has been, and we trust is still enjoying some manifestations of the special presence of the Spirit of God, which we are happy to communicate, if it will be any cause of rejoicing, or ground of encouragement to Christians in general. This congregation erected a church edifice luring the past year, and assembled on the third Sabbath of January, 1857, to dedicate it to the worship of God. We were led to continue meetings through the week, in view of a communion season on the following Sabbath, at which time, perceiving a growing interest, we protracted the meetngs until the evening of the first Sabbath of ebruary, which resulted in the reception of twenty-six persons into the communion of the church; twenty of whom were received upon the profession of their faith in Christ. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. J. D. Smith, of Columbus. During the meetings, we were indebted to Rev. Samuel Findley, Jr., and Rev. W. May-nard, for valuable aid. Some are still in

For the Presbyterian Banner and Advocate

Acknowledgment. MR. EDITOR :- Permit me, through the medium f your paper, to acknowledge the receipt of a ertificate of Life Membership of the Domestic Board of Missions, by the contribution of the Second church, of Pittsburgh. Apart from the mportance of the objects contemplated by this valuable branch of Christian enterprise, there is great pleasure, especially as we grow older, in being remembered by others, and in having our associated with efforts to promote the Master's cause. A. D. CAMPBELL. Maple Grove, March 1st, 1857.

Ecclesiastical. MR. G. W. MECHLIN was ordained and installed pastor of the united congregations of Glade Run and Concord, by the Presbytery of Saltsburg, at Glade Run, on the 20th of February. Rev. J. Caruthers presided, proposed the constitutional questions, and delivered the charge to the congregations. Rev. W. F. Mor gan preached the sermon, from Lak. v: 5, 6. Rev. F. Orr gave the charge to the pastor. His Post Office address is Rev. Wm. MAYNARD'S Post Office address

is changed from Cambridge, Ohio, to Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. J. H. NEVIUS was installed pastor of Fall Creek and North Henderson churches, Ill., on the 12th and 13th of November, 1856, by a Committee of Schuyler Presbytery, to wit: Rev. I. N. Candee, D. D., and Rev. Thomas S. Vaill.

Rev. W. J. ALEXANDER'S Post Office ad-County, Pa.

> Eastern Correspondence. NEW YORK, Feb. 28, 1857.

charged with performing "fleet marriages;" services. Now, though the sight of false whiskers, and the manner of the groom on he occasion, might have suggested caution to Mr. M., the presence of the daughter of Mrs. Cunningham was calculated to allay uspicion. At any rate how could he, or any other clergyman, compel a witness to testify on oath as to the identity of the parties? strangers. But to such a practice, as a eneral rule, there are serious objections, as many honest people in this great city would houses are an exception, it is believed, and thus be precluded from marriage at the as may be shown perhaps in some future hand of any clergyman. The remedy sug- communication. gested is not a return to the publication of the bans," which has been done away, ven in Mass., but to a law which shall reuire parties seeking marriage to establish heir identity before a civil officer, whose certificate shall be the clergyman's warrant for performing the ceremony. Clergymen to their respective asylums, while as the would prefer this to the authority to ad most important measure, they desire that minister an oath, since it would release them the thirteen hundred children growing up rom unnecessary responsibility, and throw in the poisonous and polluted atmosphere of it on the State where it belongs, in so far as these alms houses, should be transferred to t is a civil contract. Secret marriages are existing orphan asylums, or to a special in rarely called for, and are fruitful of evil in stitution established for their support and facilitating fraud, destroying the peace of facilitating fraud, destroying the peace of education. They suggest the indifference families, and detracting from the solemnity of those who reside in the immediate neighof the engagement. While such is the borhood of these poor houses as one reason suctity of marriage, its relation to the for their wretched condition. The respecpurity of society, and the security of property, that it ought, at least, to be guarded are the transfer of a house or of a piece of ground. and beaten, suffocated in Summer, and fro-In such a transfer the parties must establish their zidentity befores a zeivil officer, and animals; while the aged sicken and die withsurely this is not too much to demand of parties about to enter into the marriage contract. It is proposed, further, to modify our registry law, so as to require the city Inspector to publish marriages, as well as to and Christian. The mere possibility should ecord them. Had this been done in the arrest his attention, and constrain him to per

the plea that the Bishops, or Church, forbid In this, as in the matter of the Con essional, they set the civil authorities at defiance, and surely with less apology, since the registry law, which is limited to this city, and applies to them as strictly as to the Protestant clergy, can hardly be said to interfere with any one's civil rights or scruples of conscience. It is time something was done to secure uniformity and efficiency in its observance, if its expected benefits are to be realized. Its statistics are now incomplete, and, therefore unreliable. while it can be of little avail in settling questions of property, and much less in surrounding marriage with those restraints and guards which its vital importance demands. The marriage are not the only laws that

need modification in this great and prosper-

ous State. A Select Committee appointed

to visit them, report to the Senate that the

County Poor, or Alms Houses not connected

with the city of New York, are generally in

a most deplorable condition. Were no their testimony founded on actual inspection, and beyond dispute, from the character of the Committee, it would be asking too quiring "what they must do to be saved;" much to credit the cruelties, excesses, and and we rejoice in this evidence that the abuses they report. After the labors of work still progresses. M. Howard abroad, and of Miss Dix in our own land, with the intelligence, humanity, and religion, that are supposed to mark the middle of the nineteenth century, such abominations as are tolerated, would seem to be impossible. Much of the evidence the Committee collected, is not, they state, of a proper nature to be given to the public in detail; and if some of their statements are specimens, it might well be withheld from general perusal, though it is time it should be made known to the proper authorities. The physical condition of paupers appears to be most pitiable. The poorhouses, generally, are badly constructed, ill arranged, ill-warmed, and ill-ventilated." Their ordinary rooms are crowded, and their sleeping apartments become so noxious as to be almost insufferable. The want of hospital accommodations for the sick, is more severely felt than provision for the comfort of the healthy. Where physicians are employed they are poorly paid, while in some cases inmates, sicken, and die without any medical attendance. Idiots, lunatics, deaf mutes, and blind persons, are found mingled with ordinary paupers. There is no attempt to classify the sane and vigorous, or if attempted, the construction of the houses render it impossible, and, as a consequence, there is an indiscriminate association of the depraved and the virtuous, the old and the young, and of both the sexes, during the day, without exception, and in many instances also by night. Tainted fish and meat are reported as the diet of one of the houses, with insufficient fuel and bedding, which resulted in extreme suffering to many of the inmates, and the freezing of two fedress is changed from Perry, Venango males, who are thereby crippled for life. County, Pa., to Canonsburg, Washington Lunatics and idiots are treated like wild beasts, rather than human beings, whose misfortunes should call forth special tenderness and sympathy. They are confined in loathsome cells, bound with chains, whipped, and in "most cases female lunatics have MR. EDITOR:—The Burdell case has offly male attendants." "In one County, directed attention to the looseness of the where eleven lunatics were confined, six marriage laws of this State, and a bill is were in chains, some of whom were females," already before the Legislature for their not because they were violent, but because modification. As they now stand, parties their keepers were ignorant! Others were can marry themselves by simply declaring found in a state of nudity, both male and their purpose to be man and wife in the female, "in cells intolerably offensive, litpresence of a witness. This provision was tered with the long accumulated filth of the intended to legalize mock marriages, where occupants, and with straw reduced to chaff they have been performed, as they some by long use as bedding, portions of which times are, for deceit and injury; but it may adhered to the persons of the inmates, and be questioned whether it does not open the formed their only covering." Could anyoor for graver evils than it was designed to thing be more inhuman, disgraceful or disobviate. The latitude, too, that the law gusting? How are we to explain such gives to clergymen and magistrates, or the spots upon our civilization and Christianity? difficulty of complying with some of its re- It is not surprising that with such treatment quirements on this subject, calls for its and arrangements the mortality of paupers uodification. It prescribes, for example, should be excessive. In one Alms-house, hat clergymen shall be satisfied as to the averaging one hundred and thirty-seven inidentity of the parties who offer themselves mates, there were thirty six deaths during for marriage, and that, on request, they the past year, yet none of them from epi shall give a certificate, specifying, among demic or contagious diseases. In the whole other things, that they were known to them, fifty-five of the State—that is outside of or were satisfactorily known, on the oath of New York and King's Counties-and whose a person known to them, to be the persons average inmates amounted to six thousand described in the certificate, &c. "The clergy | four hundred and twenty, the mortality man, however, has no power to administer for the year, reached seven hundred and an oath, and, therefore, on this point the seventy. But their immoralities are still law requires of him an impossibility. Its more marked and deplorable. Ignorance provision is, indeed, most important. The rance and indolence, the parents of vice, identity of the parties ought to be insisted with indiscriminate intercourse and little or on ; but the law has nullified itself by with no religious instruction, degrade and defile holding from him the requisite authority to their souls more effectually than cold, hunenforce it, and hence it ought not to hold ger, and nakedness, pinch and destroy their him responsible for its omission, bodies. Think, too, of the two hundred. There is a disposition to censure Rev. and ninety-two children born during the Uriah Marvin for his connexion with the past year under these circumstances -man Burdell marriage, and also other clergymen of them the offspring of guilt-and reared, of the city, as though they were heedless of as they must be, unless some provision is the law on the subject. They have been made for their removal, under these debasing influences. What, in all probability that is, such marriages as were performed a can await them but a life of crime, and death hundred years ago about the Fleet prison in of infamy? Does not the State indeed put London, by "profligate clergymen, a scan- a premium on crime, by the superior advandal to religion, and disgrace to their order, tages she affords criminals in her prisons who, married without license or question," compared with paupers in her Alms houses? any one who would pay them for their Is it wonderful that the virtuous poor should shrink from this form of public charity, when it exposes them to such inhuman treatment and vile associations? It is most sincerely to be hoped the State of New York is alone in this condemnation; but might not a similar investigation lead to equally disgraceful disclosures in the poor houses of other States ? Certainly New York is not He might, as is often done, have refused to behind any State or nation in the multitude marry them on the ground that they were and magnitude of her Charitable Institutions, nor in the skill and care with which

The Committee suggest as remedies for these glaring evils work houses, out door relief, after the example of the alms house department of this city, with a more careful supervision on the part of the appointed of ficers: "Lunatics and idiots should be sent such restraints as are now required in their doors, lunatics and idiots are starved out attendance, and the young grow up poorly fed, or clothed, and altogether unin-Burdell case, the true nature of the transaction would have been discovered. The fact that it was recorded, as the law required,

The meetings for prayer for children and discovered. The meetings for prayer for children and discovered that it was recorded, as the law required,

most of them are conducted. County poor-

did not prevent its being kept secret. Many youth, held in this city, on Thursday, in account clergymen, indeed, fail to report their mar- cordance with the resolution of the General riages, through ignorance or inadvertance, Assembly, were largely attended and deeply