

Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, MARCH 28, 1887.

TERMS.—\$1.50 in advance or in Clubs \$1.25 per copy, delivered at residence of Subscribers... For a large amount, send a Draft, or large notes. For one or two papers, send Gold or small notes.

ROMANIST NEWSPAPERS.—The Freeman's Journal claims a Romanist population in this country, of three to four millions, with nine newspapers, and thirty thousand subscribers to the whole.

Tallahassee Mission.—We have a letter from Miss M. H. McKean, of this Mission, addressed to the children; which they may expect to see next week.

As to qualifications, Miss McKean says, in the words of the Secretaries of the Board, "None but persons of sound constitutions, cheerful dispositions, and a willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of Christ and their fellow-men, are regarded as suitable persons for this work."

The health of the Institution the past Winter, has been without a parallel.

The Old Brick Church.—This venerable building is no more. The congregation which long worshipped there, and for many years under the ministry of Dr. Gardner Spring, having mainly removed "up-town," the lot was sold, some months ago, and the building was, last week, demolished.

One hundred and thirty years ago, Jonathan Edwards declined a call to an infant school of Presbyterians in New York, because, "on account of the smallness of the society, he did not think there was a rational prospect of answering the good end proposed, by settling there as a minister."

Revivals.—EARLVILLE, ILL.—We last week noted from an exchange, the revival at this place. We have since received a letter from the pastor, Mr. Ustick, which speaks of a few persons still inquiring, and acknowledges the help received from brethren Henderson and Fleming.

WHITE WATER, IND.—Sixteen persons were lately received to the communion of the Church; of whom fourteen were students in the Academy. The church is ministered to by Rev. David Monfort, and has received forty-four additions during the year.

FULTON, MO., the seat of Westminster College, still enjoys reviving influences. The work commenced on the day of prayer for youth. Sixty-six have joined in communion; others were anxiously inquiring, and a deep seriousness pervaded the community.

CORTLAND, ALABAMA.—A correspondent of the Presbyterian says: "The Presbyterian church in this place has been graciously revived—God's people have been made to rejoice, and hardened sinners have been humbled; such as were never known to weep before, have been made to cry out, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'"

DANVILLE, KY.—Religions interest was awakened on the Day of Prayer for Colleges, and many inquirers have since presented themselves to the Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

More Elucidation Relative to the Status of Infants.

The subject of infant membership in the Church of Jesus Christ, and the duty of the Church toward those infants as they grow up to manhood, is so vastly important, that Christians will not think it amiss if we give it much space in our columns.

The Princeton Review, whose article has called forth so much discussion, occupies a position giving it immense power in our Church. Its friends must, therefore, not think strange, if, among PRESBYTERIANS, there should be much watchfulness, and some freedom of speech, in regard to its utterances; or even if there should be some calling for explanations, they must not complain. They would, themselves, abhor the thought of its dicta being taken for doctrines; and they must hence not be too sensitive under a remark of inquiry. We know that they regard the Review as speaking to a people who have a right to investigate, and who are disposed to exercise that right.

Just after going to press, last week we received an article, sustaining the position of the Review. It was written previously to the appearance of A. B.'s second number, and without a knowledge of our own remarks on the subject. We give a few extracts which are regarded by the writer as still in point:

1. On p. 21, as immediately introductory to, and explanatory of, pages 22, 23, of the article, from which A. B. extracts the words "presumptive," we find the writer, for the avowed purpose of "precluding misconstruction in any quarter," affirms it to be our Standards, as previously quoted by him, and "in the Word of God."

Mr. Editor—The "Explanation" last week of the respected, but unwise, whose editorship of the Princeton Review, on Infant Membership, has been called in question, might give the impression, that the whole question is reduced to an unimportant word. With reference to the "Explanation" of A. B., I would, therefore, beg to refer to the positions taken in the Review, as understood them, on the Status of the children of believers, which the Explanation does not recall nor justify.

First, that besides being born members of the visible Church, as we have already held, "they are presumed to be members of the invisible Church." Second, that, (as the author's last explanation words it, and, as, therefore, fully admitted and sustained) in the former case, the child of a Christian is based on the presumption of their membership in the invisible Church. And so it is maintained.

Whether this doctrine does not conform to the visible Church with the invisible Church, as already suggested. 3. Whether infant baptism, (or circumcision, in the case of the Jews) is to be administered on the basis of the presumption, that the children of believers "are, or will prove themselves to be," the spiritual children of God.

It is always a symptom for good when people are disposed, earnestly, to help themselves. We were, therefore, much gratified to receive a letter from Indian City, Kansas Territory, informing us of the existence of a Charitable Society in that place, for the purpose of educating the poor, and also the Indians in the region. It speaks of the Indians as advancing encouragingly in civilization.

At a meeting of Dana Presbytery, called by the Moderator, Mr. Samuel Holmes, formerly of Union Theological Seminary, was licensed to preach the Gospel.

eral sanctity, different from that promised in the covenant of grace, he says: "This is first to be observed, that the Apostle did not intend that all children born of believers are really partakers of the Spirit, and heirs of the Kingdom of God by Christ. No promise of such a prerogative has been made to believing parents. Events every day prove the contrary."

Westminster College.—This Institution owes its origin to the Synod of Missouri, and must therefore, derive its sustenance. It is located at Fulton, in Callaway County, and has been in existence about five years.

Presbyterians are not very numerous, and some of them, not very wealthy, in Missouri. But they need a College; and an Ecclesiastical College seems to be their only hope. In the Atlantic section of the country, we can hardly appreciate the need felt in the West, of Presbyterian and Synodical efforts in the promotion of literature.

Within a few minutes of the receipt of the above, there arrived the following, from "A. B.": "We present all together, because we think that the parties, becoming thus acquainted, will regard each other as 'good men and true,' and if they should ever have a personal acquaintance, it will be with a full confidence in each other's orthodoxy, and with an attachment the more ready and the more strong, for this discussion."

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The American Tract Society.

The Committee, appointed last year, to investigate the affairs of this institution, met in New York last week, and, after a two days' session, adjourned till April 21st.

Superannuated and Disabled Ministers' Fund.—The Committee appointed by the last Assembly, on the highly important subject of a Scheme by which adequate provision should be made for God's ministers, in their decline of life, issue the following CIRCULAR. It will doubtless elicit the deep interest of the brethren of the churches:

At the last meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, (O. S.), the property of a further effort to secure an adequate provision for the aged and disabled ministers of the Church, and the widows and children of such as are in indigent circumstances, was fully discussed. The result was a decided expression in favor of such action, including an affirmation of the resolutions of the Assembly of 1849, on that subject.

What number of ministers in your Presbytery are engaged in secular employments, in addition to their ministerial duties; and, in such cases, what has led to that result? 6. Is it probable, in your judgment, that the ministers and churches in your Presbytery will cooperate in carrying out such a plan as may be recommended by the assembly, for raising a fund, the proceeds of which shall be irrevocably pledged to the purposes before indicated?

Ministers Deceased.—Rev. ELIZABETH BUTLER, M. D., formerly Missionary to the Cherokee in Georgia, and who was there imprisoned for his fidelity to their interests, but released by the United States Court, died at Van Buren, Ark., on the 4th of February, aged sixty-one years.

Rev. ROBERT CAMERON, the Stated Supply of the church in Princetonville, Illinois, departed this life at his residence in that place, on the 12th of February. He was about sixty-seven years of age, and had labored in the ministry forty-seven years.

Rev. CALVIN COLTON, known as the writer of the Junius Tracts, died recently at Savannah, Ga., whither he had gone in pursuit of health. He was a gentleman of highly respectable character, and a writer of much ability.

Rev. WM. D. PAISLEY, a "venerable and beloved man of God," says the Central Presbyterian, "departed this life in Greensborough, N. C., on the 10th inst., in the 87th year of his age, and the 63d of his ministry. His long life, devoted to the cause of Christ, had a sweet and gentle close."

Webster's Church History.—Mr. EDITOR—As the History of the Presbyterian Church, by the late Rev. Webster, will probably be issued by the last of this month, the present may be a favorable time to ask the publication of the action of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, in relation to it, which has been delayed for reasons which it is not necessary to mention.

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Eastern Correspondence.

New York, March 21, 1887. MR. EDITOR—Popular amusement is a subject of great practical interest, and just now excites much attention. Amusement, or relaxation of some kind, seems a necessity of our nature; and in this city, at least, most ample arrangements are made for its gratification.

There are, for example, some twenty theatres, concert rooms, &c., open and attended nightly by thirty thousand people, at an estimated cost of about one hundred thousand dollars per week. This is but one class of amusements, and one class of pleasure-seekers, whereas the variety is great, and number endless. During the past Winter, the excitement and gaiety connected with them have certainly not been less than during previous seasons.

There have been private, as well as public halls, concerts and parties, on a scale of grandeur and extravagance which indicate the growth of wealth and luxury as clearly as it is seen in houses, dress, and style of living. Its amusements are, in fact, the principal attraction of the city to vast numbers, and an amount of time and money are expended on their preparation and enjoyment, almost adequate to the ordinary necessities of their families—entirely needless contributions to their support than to all our churches, schools, and benevolent institutions. The tendency seems also to increase license in their indulgence. Iniquity is taxed to give them variety. Foreign games are adopted not only, but with the impetuosity of our people, pushed to annual excesses.

It is interesting to note that this Circular should be in the possession of the Committee at least as early as the 10th of April next. They may be addressed to the Chairman, H. E. LEAVELL, Chairman, Cincinnati, O. E. P. ROGERS, Albany, N. Y. DANIEL LIND, New York City. NANCY D. JONES, Princess Ann, Md. THOMAS C. PERAZZ, Asheville, C. H., S. C.

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