

Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, APRIL 4, 1887.

TERMS.—\$1.50, in advance or in Clubs \$1.00, or delivered at residence of subscribers, \$1.75. See prospectus on Third Page. NEWSALERS 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, however, in the haste of mailing, this signal should be omitted, 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 notes. For one or two papers, send Gold or small notes. TO MAKE CHANGE, Send postage stamps, or better still, send for more papers; say \$3 for Seventy numbers, or \$1 for Thirty-three numbers. DIRECT all Letters and Communications to REV. DAVID MCKINNEY, Pittsburgh, Pa.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE.—See "Notices."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—We have received \$2, from "Quies," to send Banner to ministers unable to pay.

CHANGE OF PLACE.—Persons changing the direction of their papers, will please inform us where they have been sent heretofore, as well as where they wish them.

STEVENSVILLE FEMALE SEMINARY.—The twenty eighth annual Catalogue of this distinguished Institution, presents it as still flourishing. Scholars during the year, 190; Summer Session, 125; Winter Session, 150.

LIBERAL.—Dr. Phillips' church, New York, recently, on the presentation of the cause of Church Extension by the Secretary, Rev. Mr. Coe, gave a contribution of \$1700. We trust that the day of liberal giving to this worthy object, has dawned.

SYNOD OF WHEELING.—The attention of members of the Presbyteries of St. Clairsville, Steubenville, Washington, and Richland, is requested to the call of Synod's Agent for Washington College, in our column of "Notices."

Coming Home to Recruit. It must be exceedingly delightful to our Missionaries who have labored intensely in heathen lands, for half a score, or a score of years, to re-visit their native home. It is an indulgence which ought to be granted, even if exhausted nature did not require the relaxation; but when impaired health makes the demand, all must yield under this necessity. Dr. McCarty and lady, Rev. Mr. Wright and lady, and Mrs. Nevius, Missionaries of our Board, have been compelled to leave China for a season. They arrived at New York on the 23d ult.

Reveries. ALBIA, IOWA.—We learn that the Presbyterian church in this place, enjoyed a refreshing season, during its late communion. The series of meetings continued the week—preaching every day. The Holy Spirit had been, and we trust still is, gloriously and manifestly in their midst. Twenty-four in all, have united with the church; six on certificate, and eighteen on examination.

RICHMOND, VA.—The Central Presbyterian speaks of a powerful work of grace, in Duval Street Presbyterian church. Some thirty-five persons had professed a change, and the work seemed but commencing.

MR. PLEASANT, IOWA.—The church in this place, under the pastoral care of Rev. T. Stearns, is much blessed. At a late communion, twenty-two persons were received—fourteen on certificate, and eight on examination. About one hundred members have been added within two years.

FREDERICKTON, OHIO.—Mr. Caldwell informs us that all the churches in this place have been enjoying a precious revival. For three months the attention has been general. To the Presbyterian church thirty persons have been added, mostly on examination. A number of these are young men, from among the ranks of the ministry may be recruited.

WINTERSVILLE, O.—In the charge of Rev. D. R. Campbell, a very interesting work of grace is in progress. Twenty-seven persons have been hopefully converted, and received recently into the communion of the church. Others are still inquiring. The Lord is truly in our midst.

A Delegation. In another column we present, over the signature of the Secretary of the Board of Domestic Missions, the sad fact, that there has been a decline to the extent of \$4,000, in the contributions of the churches, during the year just closed. Why is it so? Is it from the want of Traveling Agents? Can it be that pastors, after all that has been said, have been so negligent? There should have been an increase, instead of a decline. Every year should bring in enlarged means. Our Church increases, in numbers and wealth; and, with a spreading population, her wants enlarge. Why, then, have these wants not been met? They were known. The Board stated them in season, and re-iterated the call for supplies; and the Church journals sent the pleadings and warnings of every pastor and Session. And see the result! Must there be a return to the Agent system?

Something must be done. There must be labor, strenuous and wisely directed. As well might we expect grain to grow without tillage, and harvest to come in from our fields without laborers, as that funds will flow into our treasuries without agencies to gather them. The parochial officers must work, or others must. There must be an instrumentality. God has so ordained. What shall it be? Arouse, brethren. Let the faithful Missionary be neither turned away, nor starved. Let not the Macedonian cry, from your feeble congregations, and your new settlements, the repellent by the humiliating response from your Board, We are not able.

Missions in Persia.

In our number for March 21, we drew the attention of our readers to the war in Persia, and to the influences which, we believed, would speedily be brought to bear against the Gospel in central Asia, as certainly as Russian policy would succeed in acquiring mastery in that region. We stated the fact that the Shah of Persia is but the satrap of the Czar, whose power he dreads, and in whose iron grasp he fears that the Persian Empire may soon be broken to pieces. The other power which the Shah dreads is England. He would play false to Russia, so far as he dare, in order to propitiate England; and when he thinks himself safe, he is prepared to change his hand and please the Autocrat, by a policy which is insulting to England. For several months past, the last game has been played by Persia to an extent that has attracted a great degree of attention; and as the facts of the case prove and illustrate our position, we give them to our readers in detail, as we find them in our latest European intelligence; specially condensing and freely using the London News and the Christian Times.

For twenty years, or thereabouts, the missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions have had their agents laboring with much success among the Nestorians, in the North-West provinces of Persia, where that people are generally situated. Oromiah is the district in which these brethren have chiefly conducted their operations. They have translated the entire Bible into the language of the people, whom they have also provided with a religious and useful literature. Before the missionaries settled in Oromiah, the language of the people had never been reduced to writing, but now it is a tongue brought to order, and it has been made the vehicle of conveying instruction to the young of both sexes, in the numerous schools which have been established in the province. The preaching of the Gospel among the Nestorians, the establishment of schools for the benefit of the rising generation, and the introduction of those agencies which missionaries every where carry with them, have produced a marked improvement in the Nestorian people. Light, truth, honesty, peacefulness, and the blessings of genuine religion, have been widely extended among them. The missionaries have had access to all the schools in Oromiah. With the exception of two men of notoriously immoral character, all the native Bishops have favored the missionaries, and the people have generally welcomed their instructions, and manifested deep gratitude for these favors. The late King of Persia was so convinced of the healthful influence of these men, whom he recognized as the benefactors of the country, that he ordered his officers to protect them; and to patronize them in their labors; and at one time even the present King manifested a similar tendency.

It is well known, however, that popularity among the Persians these agents of the American Board were recognized as Englishmen. They spoke English, that language was taught in their schools, and they were special favorites with Sir John Campbell, Sir John McNeill, Colonel Shell, and Mr. Murray, who successively represented Great Britain at the Court of the Shah. Now, however, when Russian counsels prevail in Persia, an entire change has come over the State of the American Mission. The present Prime Minister is their enemy, and he is known to be equally hostile to England. It is believed that the opposition of the Prime Minister has been increased by the exertions of the Persian Commander-in-Chief on the frontiers. He became acquainted with the wide-spread results of missionary labor in Oromiah, and he saw that the presence of such men would constitute a very serious check to his oppression and misrule, as they would be able to report in faithful terms all the acts of rapacity and tyranny of which he would be guilty. By his means a firman was gained, about two years ago, which fetters the operations of the missionaries. It prohibits them from teaching females; from teaching the English language to any one; from sending any native Nestorian to preach; and the people are forbidden to attend on the preaching of the missionaries. A censor was set over the press, in order to prevent anything being published which was opposed to the former superstitions of the Nestorians; and, as a climax to these enactments, the profligate Bishops already referred to were raised to the office of directors over every thing pertaining to the American Mission. To a certain extent this firman was not executed; but since the troubles commenced with England, Asker Ali Khan, the Commander-in-Chief, has been sent into Oromiah for the express purpose of fully carrying out the provisions of this royal order.

The conduct of this general has been all that the emissaries of Russia and the Jesuits (for they, too, it appears, have been in the field), could desire. Parents are threatened if they send their children to school; while native teachers are fined, imprisoned, or beaten. Even those who are not actually engaged in teaching, it appears, are harrassed; and native preachers, also, are treated in a similar way, without any crime being charged against them. Fifty schools are broken up, in which a great amount of good had been done; and the people are forbidden to read the books which have been published by the Mission Press. The pious Nestorian preachers are prevented from entering their own churches, and they are even prohibited from preaching in their own dwelling houses. Two of the most excellent of the Bishops are to be removed from their dioceses, and their successors are to be the two abandoned men to whom we have already referred. These reckless characters are invested with unlimited power, and they are to be obeyed in all things, under pain of immediate punishment.

It is not believed that the feeble ruler of Persia is the author of this persecution.

Just as Russian tyranny dreads the Bible in Russia, and expelled the agents of the Bible Society, so did it dread the progress of Gospel truth in the Greek Church, both in European and Asiatic Turkey. It was a common occurrence, during the late war, to hear the Greeks, who opposed the American and English missionaries and Bible distributors, and who were desirous of Russian aggrandizement, as a means of staying the progress of Gospel light, boastfully saying, "The Czar will soon be at Constantinople, and then farewell to all your Missions!" It is thoroughly comprehended at St. Petersburg, that if the Greeks in Turkey, and the Armenians and Nestorians in Persia, were evangelized and Protestantized by the efforts of Great Britain and America, the religious change would erect a most formidable barrier to Russian aggression. A Protestant people will always assert their liberty, and rather than submit to an oppression which would deprive them alike of the Bible and of liberty, such a people would lean to the lands that had blessed them with the Gospel. The knowledge of this fact is the key to the policy of the agents of Russia, in preventing the spread of the Word of God.

Now that Russian counsels are in the ascendant at Teheran, the object is to have the American Mission destroyed in Oromiah before the war with England comes to an end, and to trust to the chapter of accidents to guard against its re-establishment. When a deed of iniquity and blood was about to be perpetrated, eighteen centuries and a half ago, we are told that "Pilate and Herod were made friends together; for before they were at enmity between themselves." So it is now in Persia, with the emissaries of the two leading modern opposers of the Gospel of Christ. The agents of Loyola are in Persia, and there they meet with the tools of the Czar. It appears that a Kurdish chief, near the frontier of Oromiah, stimulated, no doubt, by the outrages of Asker Khan, has assassinated him. This is a common mode of dealing with great or petty tyrants in Asia; but even this event is capable of being used to the discredit of the cause of God. A French paper, published at Constantinople, the Presse d'Orient, has a Persian correspondent, who, alluding to the death of the Persian officer, has the audacity to assert "that it is suspected that the American missionaries in Oromiah, who are always trouble-makers, had something to do with the death of this man." Of course the writer knew that he was giving currency to a falsehood; but he would go abroad, and many who would never see the refutation, would have their minds poisoned and their prejudices confirmed against the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. The other portions of the correspondence, it is stated, clearly show the connection of this writer with the Jesuits, and fully warrant the suspicion that this fraternity have had their share in stirring up this persecution against the friends of Divine truth.

Happily for that cause, the Shah has been arrested in his course, and the conduct of the British Government has been such as to show him the folly of his designs. It will remain for the representative of our Government from Washington to do his duty on his arrival in Persia. That many days can elapse after his credentials are delivered until efficient steps shall be taken to deliver his countrymen from all their oppressors, and reinstate them in the position which they formerly occupied, we do not believe. The lives and safety of our fellow-countrymen, as well as their liberties, must be protected, and our people will see that this is effected promptly and done. Meantime, we close by advertising to the fact which our people should never forget, that there are just two countries in the world in which the Gospel enjoys liberty, and that the extension of their rule involves the opening up of new fields for missionary enterprise, by which the best interests of humanity are promoted; and that these countries are Great Britain and the United States. Russia and the Papal powers would enslave the minds of men, in order to enslave their bodies; and where they rule over an enslaved people, they will persistently shut out every portion of the truth, lest it should awaken and invigorate the mind. But while we say this, we insist, most strenuously, that Protestant influence shall be extended only by righteous means, and for worthy ends. Unjust aggression is never to be sanctioned.

Old and New School Presbyterians. We have no idea that the slightest benefit, at the present time, would result from a discussion of the Old and New School differences, and hence would not say a word designed to provoke such a discussion. If we can live, side by side, in peace, and serve our Master with devotedness, we shall then see each other's good works, and confidence will spring up, and love will grow apace. There will, however, be occasional remarks and inquiries. Let these be noted with respect. We are not to ignore each other.

A correspondent writes as follows: Omsk, March 23, 1887. Dr. McKINNEY.—Dear Sir.—I hope you will permit my turning your attention briefly to a point of doctrine, which is remarked by some as being the only difference between the Old and New School Presbyterians, viz.: Limited Atonement. Now, Dr., is the difference of such vital importance, as to prevent two such large and influential bodies from being united in one. Would it not be beautiful, if it could be done, to see them as one in the hand of the Great Idd of the Church. Will you, or some one, please give your opinion. Yours truly, TRO-A.

The word "limited," as applied to the Atonement, is very indefinite in its significance. All evangelical Christians regard the worth of the Atonement as infinite. Its application then, with the same unanimity, regard as limited. All mankind do not have the benefits applied, to their eternal salvation. Some think they get clear of difficulties and obscurities by representing Atonement as general, and Redemption as particular. But we enter not into this discussion. We merely wish to show that Persia is the author of this persecution.

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To effect a remedy, the meek man must be held in honor, and the bravo gentleman be despised. And the acceptor of a challenge, equally with the giver of it, must be reprobated. They must be regarded, both, as men of blood, all approbation be withheld, their company be repelled, and they estimated as unworthy forever, of a vote for any office which they might ask.

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PASTOR'S AND PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.—This is the title of a new monthly, sustaining the principles of Presbyterianism. The first number indicates much ability, and gives promise of usefulness. It is edited by Revs. R. L. Breck and Wm. Flinn, and published at Macon, Ga.

SAN FRANCISCO.—A writer in the Pacific Methodist speaks of the recent anniversary of the Bible Society, in terms very encouraging. In noting the state of the churches, he commends Dr. Scott and Anderson highly. They are preaching to very large congregations, and exerting a happy influence. Evangelical Christians seem to labor there in great harmony.

DUELING. The Southern Presbyterian is publishing a series of articles, expository of the inhumanity, folly, and wickedness of this so-called gentleman's code of honor (!!) No. VII and VIII, now before us, show, most lucidly, that the practice is dishonorable, in every high degree.

DUELING IS MADE PENAL BY LAW. It is condemned by moralists, and is utterly repudiated by Christians. But still it lives. Why is this? Why, public sentiment still, in reality, sustains it. The man who bears an insult, meekly, still finds himself despised, while he who resents it is frowned on and applauded. We see this every day, on a smaller scale, and among high folks, it must have its desperate bearings. Whenever public sentiment shall forbid the practice, it will cease. As soon as it shall become really irrepressible, the law will have terrore and aid in its suppression; but while the man who refuses, under an insult, to give a challenge, is despised; and while the man who accepts a challenge, and indulges in some bluster and bravado, is applauded and promoted to office by electors, we have but little hope of seeing much improvement.

To effect a remedy, the meek man must be held in honor, and the bravo gentleman be despised. And the acceptor of a challenge, equally with the giver of it, must be reprobated. They must be regarded, both, as men of blood, all approbation be withheld, their company be repelled, and they estimated as unworthy forever, of a vote for any office which they might ask.

Consistency on the part of the religious community, male and female, and on the part of the humane, and of the men of true courage, moral as well as physical, would soon reduce dueling to a very low grade in the scale of respectability, and make it a sin of but rare occurrence.

Jefferson College. The Winter term, in this Institution, closed last week, to be followed by a vacation of six weeks. The new President, Dr. Alden, had been present, during the latter part of the term, and was duly inaugurated at the meeting of the Board.

Rev. A. B. Brown, D. D., the former President, was elected Professor of Political Economy and History; a position which he is pleased to learn he has agreed to occupy. Dr. Brown feels a deep interest in the College which he served so long and so usefully, and the Trustees and Faculty are gratified to have his aid in a department which will not tax his energies so severely as did the duties of his former station. The prospects of the College, especially as they may be connected with the Faculty, were never more bright than at present.

Home and Foreign Record, for April.

The pressure upon our columns is such that we shall, this time, give but little space to the Record.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS. In other places we state the serious wants of this Board. The Record gives us encouraging letters from St. Paul, Minnesota; Dubuque, Iowa; and Spring Hill, Ohio. Receipts in February: at Philadelphia, \$10,452; at Pittsburgh, \$1,007; at Louisville, \$3,918. Total for the month, \$15,377.

EDUCATION. The last Thursday in February seems to have been observed extensively, and with much interest. We have heard of revivals begun in several Colleges and Academies at that time, from which precious fruits are being gathered, and affording bright hopes of increase.

FOREIGN MISSIONS. The work in the Foreign field progresses, with some alterations. The interruption at Canton is to be deplored. We hope that the evil will be overruled for good. In Africa, the native tribes manifest increased desire for instruction. The day of hope has, we trust, fairly dawned upon that land of darkness.

DOCTRINES IN FEBRUARY, \$16,665. PUBLICATION. A "decided and most pleasing advance" is noted in the extensiveness and usefulness of the work of this Board. We had before noted a progress in the Publishing Department. We are now told that the contributions to Colportage, and the number of laborers employed, is greater than in any previous year.

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